

have cost one fourth less, and thus millions of dollars would have been saved, but they would have been fully able to do all the work—to carry all the freight and all the passengers that have passed over them since they were opened. We should like then to see this cheap narrow gauge receive a fair trial in Canada. The project promises to be eminently successful; but if it is not successful if the expectations formed regarding it are not fulfilled, we shall at all events be able to console ourselves with the reflection that any losses that may accrue will be trifling. Even in the event of the most complete failure, the losses from a narrow gauge line cannot be anything at all so stupendous as those which our experience tells us have invariably followed the construction of broad gauge dear railways.

DEBTOR AND CREDITOR.

Now, one did the Government of Ontario bring in their measures securing for twenty years a homestead of one hundred acres to every settler on the proposed free grants, than they were attacked upon the ground of illiberality. The principle, it was said, should be extended to the whole Province—the old settlements as well as the new. And it must be confessed that the arguments used in favor of this extension were plausible, nay, even forcible. The case of the old settler was put very adroitly. He came here a quarter of a century ago, when the country was a howling wilderness. He bought his lot, and endured great hardships in clearing and improving it, and now that he has grown old, is he not as well entitled to have his homestead protected, as the man who has just arrived in this country, and who has received his farm for nothing? At first sight it would seem that he is. But when we come to examine the particulars of the cases of the old and the new settler, we must conclude that the Premier was right in confining for the present, at all events, the homestead privilege to the latter. In the first place, the principle is a new one, and it is introduced as an experiment. Secondly, the object of its introduction is to encourage immigration from the present day forward. Thirdly, there has been no demand for a homestead bill from the old settler. Fourthly, the principle of the measure is not conceded to be applicable to the whole country indiscriminately. Fourthly, the condition of the old settler with his cleared and well stocked farm, his comfortable dwelling house, his propinquity to his chief markets, our macadamized roads, our railways and navigable waters, and all the blessings, enjoyments and refinements of society—is vastly superior to that of the settler located forty, fifty, aye, a hundred miles back in the bush—where there are no comforts, no society, no roads, no markets, and no stock, but plenty of stumps and rubbish in his farm. Sixthly, if the homestead of a farmer is entitled to protection, why not the house of a citizen? Is the country to have all the privileges and the city all the disabilities? Is not the artisan who rises early and works late, and by years of toil rakes and scrapes together enough to build a homestead within the city limits, is he not as much entitled to protection as the farmer who turns over thousands of dollars per annum, who has horses and cattle and sheep, and perhaps an account at his banker's?

If the homestead principle is to be extended, then, where will it stop? And what is this principle divested of the sympathetic charm and patriotic romance with which it is generally surrounded. Is it not simply and nakedly a law to protect the debtor from the creditor? Is it not a law which will protect a man from paying his honest debts? Is it not a law which will prohibit the creditor from collecting his honest dues? It has long been the custom in Canada to reserve all the public sympathy for the poor debtor; and to look upon the creditor as a monster to be restrained by laws and hedged in by statutes. There are no laws to prevent the creditor lending as much as he pleases; nor is there any prohibition in the debtor borrowing as much as he can, but when the day for payment comes, the law steps in and virtually compels the creditor to give up the greater portion of his rights and dues, while, in some cases, it enables the debtor to get off scot free. Now this sympathy for the debtor can be carried too far. Already legislation has done a great deal for him. It has exempted from seizure for debt his bedding, apparel, furniture, provisions for a month to the value of forty dollars, one cow, four sheep, two hogs and provisions therefor for a month, and the debtor's tools and implements to the value of sixty dollars. This is a very liberal pro-

vision, indeed, in favor of the poor debtor. There is the bankrupt law of 1864 and its amendments of 1865 passed in his interests also. And who will not say that however well intentioned this act, and however beneficial to the country as a whole, it has not worked a great deal of loss and hardship for the unfortunate creditor. The very intention of this act is to enable the debtor to whitewash himself, and to compel the creditor to press the collection of his debts in full. And beyond all doubt, many and many a debtor who has taken advantage of that act has, in plain language, cheated his creditors out of their rights.

It is not our intention, however, to find fault with the Bankrupt Act, or to condemn the principle of homesteads as applied to new settlers. All we desire is to point out that the tendency of legislation of late has been in favor of the debtor and against the creditor. It is possible to go too far in this direction. It is possible to legislate all the independence, self-reliance, nay, even all the honesty, out of a debtor. There is no greater incentive to independence than a clear field and no favor. But every incentive to honesty, independence, and self-reliance, is taken away when the debtor knows that the laws are framed to protect him from the consequences of his own acts. And in but too many instances the debtor comes to look upon these laws as premiums on fraud, enticements to get into debt, and a lurements to cheat those whom he can induce to trust his word and honor. We repeat again, then, that the Premier of Ontario was right in not hastily and inconsiderately, as he was pressed to do, extending the principle of homestead exemptions to the entire Province. Free grants and inviolable homesteads to encourage immigration are one thing. But it is another thing to enact a sweeping law that will deprive every creditor in the country of the security for his money, and which in making the borrower independent, will bring perhaps loss and utter ruin on the lender.

PAY AS YOU GO!

NEVER was there a wiser maxim than "pay as you go." It is suited to everybody. The man of business, the man without business, the professional man, the laboring man—all classes can adopt "pay as you go" as a sound motto. The evils of the credit system are not confined to those who give it those who take it are, as a general rule, as great sufferers in the end. We seldom ever knew a case of a man who always wanted credit, and who seldom paid up until the last moment possible to delay it, who became prosperous and successful. With very few exceptions, this class is always "hard up," and seldom able to make both ends meet. Those doing a large business may find it difficult, and in some circumstances impossible, to pay as they go. In some cases, unless there is a large amount of capital invested, purchases upon time become necessary, and are undoubtedly justifiable. But there is no good reason why thousands throughout Canada doing a small business, and tens of thousands not carrying on any branch of trade whatever, should not resolve to pay cash for anything they buy just as they obtain it. The advantages arising from the adoption of this course are much greater than most people at first sight suppose, and are worthy of earnest consideration by all who have the laudable desire to get on in the world.

To "pay as you go," is an advantage, because those who act upon it will live within their income. Tens of thousands don't do that. The end of every year finds them in the mud—more bills to pay than they are able to meet. If these unfortunates, for they are really to be pitied, would decide to run no more bills, to stop completely taking credit from their draper, butcher and baker, then would they experience the satisfaction arising from financial independence, and tormenting "duff" would no longer follow their tracks like birds of ill omen.

When a person pays for an article just as he purchases it, his money will last out a great deal longer than under other circumstances. It arises from two causes. In the first place, more caution is exercised in spending it. Before parting with his money, the purchaser takes good care to see that he is getting value for his money. He is perfectly independent, and if the price or quality of an article don't suit him in one place, he can go to another. The creditor customer on the other hand, feels that he is under an obligation to his creditor, and frequently purchases far more largely than he should, and gives whatever price is asked. The second cause is, that the ready cash customer always gets the best bargains—in other words,

gets more for his money. There are not many traders who do not make a distinction between those who act on the principle "pay as you go" and the sluggish credit buyer. A merchant or grocer can afford to sell cheaper to the former than the latter, for everybody knows that a "nimble sixpence is better than a slow shilling." The result is, that those who pay right on the nail, generally get more in exchange for their money than those who do not. The victim of credit burns his candle at both ends—he buys more largely and pays more dearly, the cash buyer, save at both ends—he buys more cautiously, and gets more for what he does spend.

Habits of thrift and economy are almost sure to arise from acting faithfully up to the motto of "pay as you go." The opposite system is a fruitful cause of extravagance. Many who run accounts have no idea how costly their expenses are until the end of the six months or year, when great is their surprise that they have spent so lavishly. There is no danger of this when purchases are not made until the money is ready to settle for them, and so it happens that the individual who pays as he goes, is almost invariably thrifty and prosperous.

We hoist aloft "pay as you go," as one of the wisest maxims which the community can adopt. Except tions, of course, there may be. We would be sorry to clog enterprise by enacting that no man doing a good business with inadequate capital, should not be allowed time on his purchases. But we nail our colors to the mast, and boldly maintain that the man who pays as he goes is a sensible man, and that he will generally make more money, save more money, and become more prosperous, influential and respected, than the man who acts upon the opposite principle. Let your flag, then, contain these words: "Pay as you go!"

FOOD FOR LENT.

WE are not aware that the strictest requirements as to the observance of Lent prohibit the eating of fish prepared in a manner to make it palatable and attractive. We have, indeed, heard of a parson of Ritualist tendencies being much horrified by some of his parishioners indulging in a clam chowder in Lent. This was probably owing to certain peculiar carnal properties alleged to pertain to the description of shell fish in question. Of fish that do not inhabit shells, there are certainly not many liable to the suspicion of being over-stimulating in their properties. The skate is the only exception we know of, and that fish, though one of the most delicious that swims the sea, is regarded with detestation by the fishermen on this side of the Atlantic, who cut the unwieldy monster from their lines whenever it comes to the surface, so that it is never seen in American markets, though in Great Britain it is much esteemed. With this exception, sea fish are not so stimulant or nutritious but that they require all the attractions that can be given them by the curer and the cook. Hitherto the former has not done much for the numerous class of fish consumers, voluntarily and compulso. Across the Atlantic the supplies of what may be termed fancy cured fish, are very extensive, ranging from kippered salmon down to "gild red herring." The former we can scarcely have in this country, owing to the heat of the weather and the plague of flies at the only reason when the fish are caught. Salt salmon soaked out and smoked is a poor and indigestible substitute for a very delightful preparation. But in the case of haddock and herring there is not the same difficulty to contend with, as these fish may be caught in more or less abundance in the fall and throughout the winter in certain localities on our Atlantic coast. For a considerable time past, there has been a market in Montreal and other cities in the interior for haddock put up under the name of finnan haddies, which have been heretofore supplied almost exclusively from Portland and Boston. During the past season, we are glad to learn, fish thus prepared have for the first time been imported from New Brunswick. The winter fishery for herring, which is very productive among the islands at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, has also been turned to account to furnish several varieties of palatable preparations which are a decided improvement on the common salted and smoked herring, neither of which are usually put up in such a shape as to render them very desirable. Salt herring is indeed regarded by our people as only fit to do penance on, though it is not necessarily so, for the same description of fish is also imported from Scotland, and commands a high price as a delicacy. The