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THE legal proceedings for the winding up of the Central Bank have been unusually expeditious, and so far beneficial to the creditors. The heavy burden of the litigation has been borne by the Master-in-Ordinary, though it was not part of his ordinary duties, or compulsory on him to undertake it. The Dominion statute in effect makes him an additional judge of the High Court for winding up cases, by providing that the judicial powers conferred upon the Court by the Act "may be exercised by the Master-in-Ordinary," as well as other officers named in the Act.

BILLS AND NOTES.

IN the proceedings of the Dominion Parliament we notice with pleasure the introduction in the House of Commons, by Sir John Thompson, Minister of Justice, of Bill No. 5, "An Act relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes"—a copy almost *verbatim et literatim* of the English Act 45 & 46 Vict., c. 61—intituled "An Act to codify the law relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes" (1882)—an Act admitted by general consent to be admirably drawn, and the best specimen of the codification of the law on a most important subject which has been yet produced in the shape of an Act of Parliament. Sir John Thompson has wisely made no changes in the matter or wording of the English Act, in applying it to Canada, except such as are obviously necessary—as, for instance, the days to be observed as holidays, the substitution of the word "Canada" for "the United Kingdom," and the retention of the Canadian rule that when the last day of grace is a non-judicial day, the bill or note shall be payable on the next *following* judicia' day—instead of the next *preceding* day, as in England—and in the mode of protesting a bill or note when the services of a notary cannot be obtained. There are also some forms, and a tariff of fees, which are not in the English Act. With these slight exceptions the Bill is identical, clause for clause, with the English Act. We suppose that although it is not the common practice to refer a Government Bill to a special committee, this Bill may perhaps be referred to the Sessional Committee on Banks or Banking, or to one specially selected for its consideration; and will, no doubt, be thoroughly examined and tested by gentlemen conversant with the subject. The object of the Bill is of course to make the law the *same in all* our provinces; and it is fortunate that in the Revised Statutes of Canada, vol. 2,