

4. The western provinces are making a clean start with equal rights to debtor and creditor, and while the creditor is not obliged to open an account to anybody he is warned that, if he does so, he can only follow the commodity sold for the purchase price and cannot, by pressing one commodity on to a debtor's home, acquire any lien on the other commodities therein; such other commodities being left for the creditors who supplied them, if purchase price still unpaid; otherwise exempt.

These are a few of the reasons that the western provinces are more acceptable to the honest though debt-encumbered worker than the older settled provinces in the east.

The history of the law of such exemptions in England, in the eastern provinces of Canada, and in the west, is interesting. It would be a keen criticism, on the score of fair play, against the various law districts of the empire to urge that the right to this exemption is based on the same standard in all of those law districts. If it is, one has trouble to reconcile the law of exemptions in a typical western province with that enforced in eastern provinces and still more in England.

In Alberta, for instance, the debtor under the exemption ordinance, N.W.T. 1911, c. 27, s. 2, is freed against seizure and sale under execution to a liberal extent.

This generous list is a normal western one, and is, of course, more satisfactory to the judgment debtor than to the successful litigant with his barren judgment.

This glance at western exemption laws indicates how the rights of the execution creditor and debtor, respectively, are regarded in the new country. The argument, as already intimated, is that many a healthy, honest, but unfortunate, worker with a family may there once again hold up his head and have a home for his wife and children. Those lusty developing provinces, it is said, need the industrial influx; the unfortunate citizen needs whereon to lay his head. The law of exemption is sister to the bankruptcy law, and a thrifty one.