

proposed legislation, and in the matter of assignments, an act for the regulation of which was passed at the last session, considerable modifications were obtained, and a debtor is no longer able to make an assignment to a relative or personal friend, but must do so, if at all, to an official assignee, or to such person as the majority of the creditors may designate. This latter is a very satisfactory provision, and will, no doubt, be a remedy for many of the evils which have been found in practice in the past.

GRAIN ESTIMATES.

The recommendation of your Council with regard to a system of grain estimates is one well worthy of your attention. The figures prepared by your Council for the past season have been accepted as trustworthy wherever the facts have been known. That they were considerably within the mark, all information obtained since from the farming community, as well as from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and other sources, clearly establish. It was desirable, however, that there should be no ground for a suspicion that the figures were too high. It is much to be regretted that the movement of the large crop harvested has not been at all such as, in the interest of the country, could have been desired.

REGARDING GRAIN STANDARDS.

The price of wheat in this country is largely regulated by the price prevailing in Duluth, and in consequence of this fact it was deemed advisable to have the provisions of our law as near as possible to those governing the standards at that point. The request, as seen by your Council's report, was granted by the Department at Ottawa; but subsequently, upon the recommendations of the Boards of Trade of Toronto and Montreal, the modifications were withdrawn and the law stands as before. On what principle the Boards of the east should interfere or have to do with the establishment of grades for an article exclusively of Northwestern growth I do not understand. The amount in store at Duluth of nearly seven million bushels, shows an average of 85 to 90 per cent. of No. 1 hard, while our own exports of certainly as good grain do not show one-fifth of that percentage. In view of the difference in grading thus shown,