

### Interesting Legal Decisions.

**Thompson vs. Didion.**—This was a suit brought before the Chief Justice, in equity sitting, to set aside as fraudulent and void a judgment recovered by the defendant, Catharine Baube Didion, against her husband, Edmund Didion. The bill alleged that the husband was indebted to the plaintiffs and other persons, that he carried on businesses as a merchant at Turtle River, and from time to time rendered to his creditors statements of his affairs which did not show any indebtedness to his wife, that on February 14, 1894, a writ was issued against him at the suit of his wife to which the same day an appearance was entered and a declaration filed, that on February 23 judgment was signed, execution issued and judgment registered. These proceedings, it is alleged, were taken in pursuance of a fraudulent scheme between the defendants to delay, defeat and defraud the plaintiff's other creditors. The bill asked that it might be declared that the judgment was fraudulent and void as against the plaintiff and other creditors. The defendants denied the charges of fraud, and claimed the husband was indebted to the wife for moneys advanced to him by her out of the sale of real estate, which she inherited from her father who formerly lived in Belgium, and specified the amounts advanced. His Lordship held that the bill must be dismissed with costs. The case did not come under the provisions of the act as to fraudulent and preferential assignments. The judgment might be, indeed there was little doubt that it was a preferential judgment, but it was not on that account void. It was a judgment recovered in regular course, not obtained in any of the modes forbidden by the act.

### Dominion Millers' Association.

On August 7 a large number of prominent millers assembled at the Toronto Board of Trade building on the eve of the annual meeting. The president, A. H. Baird, occupied the chair. The treasurer's report for the year showed receipts \$1,458.18, with the balance from last year of \$223.11, making a total of \$1,681.29. The disbursements were \$1,479, leaving a balance now on hand of \$202.29. This report was adopted.

Among the subjects that received attention was that of export freights. Underbidding, fraught with so much mischief, was reported to have been nearly stamped out. Probably the most important matter before the meeting was the question of freight rates. The grievance is that railways do not allow the same rate for export on flour as they do on wheat. It is claimed as a result the farmers of Ontario are not in so good a position as those of Michigan. On the contrary, the railways contend that while the steamships charge a higher rate for flour than wheat, the matter cannot be remedied.

The president in his annual address stated that: "Whilst the year just ended has been exceptionally trying, still the Canadian millers had much to be thankful for since the country has been free from the financial disasters which visited other countries. With reference to the crop prospects for this year, they are very good. He drew attention to the fact that foreign governments were encouraging the milling industry. In Germany the miller can import any quantity of foreign wheat and escape paying duty by exporting a like quantity of native grain. Thus they are enabled to obtain any desirable quantity of foreign wheat for grinding or mixed purposes free of duty. A similar rule obtained in Portugal, Italy and France."

James Goldie, of Guelph, read a very interesting paper on chattel mortgages on farmers' grain. He gave his experience in a suit he had with a farmer, and where he would have had to pay for the wheat twice except for a technicality in the mortgage. As the law stood at present, the man who had a mortgage

on the wheat could make the buyer pay for it even if the farmer had been paid.

An interesting paper was read by M. McLaughlin on our export trade. In the discussion that followed Mr. Plowes said that there was no use Canadian millers trying to export flour at a profit as long as they paid New York prices for wheat. The millers were paying far too much for their wheat, and the farmers were getting all the benefit out of the tariff. He advised the millers to pool together so as to be able to make large shipments of flour at one time. On small lots they had to pay excessive freights.

In the evening session some discussion took place about grain buying. A number of papers were also read, after which the election of officers took place, which resulted as follows: Harold Barrett, Port Hope, president; Alexander Dobson, Beaverton, first vice-president; James Hood, Stratford, second vice president; William Galbraith, Toronto, treasurer.

Executive Committee—Messrs J. L. Spink, Toronto; J. D. Saunby, London; A. H. Baird, Paris; M. McLaughlin, Toronto; James Hood, Stratford; John Goddie, Guelph; Robt. Noble, Norval.

Following is the personnel of the arbitration Committee—J. S. Stark, Paisley; W. D. Galbraith, Allandale; J. Goldie, Ayr; J. C. Vanstone, Bowmanville; W. H. Baldwin, Aurora; A. Wolverton, Wolverton; G. Hamilton, Toronto.

### Adulterated Tea.

The decree of the government of the Dominion prohibiting the importation of adulterated tea is giving satisfaction to others than Canadians. Leading tea men of New York express satisfaction. Everybody knows that most of the adulterated teas which have found their way into Canada in the past have been those which the inspector at the port of New York had previously rejected. Only last year, it will be remembered, there was a wholesale rejection of adulterated Piquette teas at New York, and a wholesale entry of them subsequently into Canada. And this was the last straw that broke the patience of the trade in this country and induced them to make such representations to the government that ultimately led it to issue the prohibitory decree that it did the other day. The reason whereof the tea men of New York are glad at this move of the Dominion Parliament, is that there is less inducement to ship spurious tea to New York. The tea adulterators in the past knew if their goods failed to pass the inspector at the latter place there was in Canada a market for at least a part of them. Now, with Canadian ports closed against the spurious tea, the chance of finding a market for it on this continent is reduced to a small point indeed. Hence New York is not likely to be bombarded with this objectionable class of tea as often as it has been, and the tea men there anticipate more peace of mind thereafter.

Numbered appear to be the days of the Chinese tea adulterators; and there are a concomitant of circumstances contributing towards that end. A year or two ago the Chinese government, recognizing the evils resulting to the tea trade therefrom, issued a decree to all whom it might concern, prohibiting the adulteration of tea, and threatening penalties dire if any of its subjects were found violating it. The effect, judging from even the adulterated teas that have found their way to this continent, has not been very wholesome. But still the decree itself shows that the authorities are doing something towards mitigating the evil. In England, tea not accounted fit for consumption is denied entry. Across the border there are inspectors whose duty it is to keep out the spurious article, and now Canada has awakened to her duty and forbidden the importation of any more of the adulterated tea which has so long found a market within her borders. Another obstacle to the entry of adulterated teas into the United States is seen in the fact that a number of leading importers

in that country are sending notices to tea men in Amoy and Formosa to the effect that tea will be rejected when not delivered pure. John Chinaman's opportunities for palming off spurious tea on the consuming markets of the world are indeed getting within narrow limits.—The Grocer.

### End of Farm Pests.

Farmers' bulletin No. 19, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, gives some directions concerning the preparation and use of a few of the insecticide agents having the widest range and attended with the greatest usefulness, economy, and ease of application. There are constant calls for information of the character contained in the bulletin, and the effort has been made to give in a concise, yet complete, manner the best method of preparing and applying the remedies suggested, by which the best results can be obtained.

The overwhelming experience of the past dozen years, the bulletin says, makes it almost unnecessary to urge, on the ground of pecuniary returns, the adoption of the measures recommended against insects. To emphasize the value of such practices it is only necessary to call attention to the fact that the loss to orchards, garden and farm crops frequently amounts to from 15 to 75 per cent. of the entire product, and innumerable instances could be pointed out where such loss has been sustained year after year, while now, by the adoption of remedial measures, large yields are regularly secured with an insignificant expenditure for treatment.

It has been established that in the case of the Apple crop spraying will protect from 50 to 75 per cent of the fruit, which would otherwise be wormy, and that in actual marketing experience the price has been enhanced from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per barrel, and this at the cost of only about 10c per tree for labor and material.

The Cotton crop, which formerly, in years of bad infestation by the leaf worm, was estimated to be injured to the extent of \$30,000,000, is now comparatively free from such injury, owing to the general use of arsenicals.

Facts of like import could be deduced in regard to many other leading staples, but the foregoing, the bulletin says, are sufficient to emphasize the money value of intelligent action against insect enemies, which, with the present competition and diminishing prices, may represent the difference between a profit or a loss in agricultural operations.

### The Fruit Crop.

The United States Agricultural Department publishes a table summarizing the reports of fruit production collected for the census year, which the department says was less than an average year in its yield of fruits, and yet this table shows a product of more than 149,000,000 bushels of apples, of 36,000,000 bushels of peaches, and of 7,000,000 bushels of pears, cherries, apricots, plums and prunes. This great product of more than 187,000,000 bushels is to be added to the record of production of tropical and semi-tropical fruits, published by the census some time ago.

### Panoramic Supplement.

The Commercial returns thanks to its many contemporaries who have given such flattering notices of our Panoramic Number, issued recently. Those journals which have not yet noticed the number, will accept thanks in advance.

The sugar factory at Caimo, California, the largest beet-sugar factory and refinery in the United States, has started up. With this season's addition to the plant, made at a cost of a quarter of a million of dollars, the factory will use 1,000 tons of beet per day, and its daily output of refined sugar will be 140 tons.