

the commission and from all claims provable under the commission. This Act was by its terms to continue in force for only two years, but by subsequent enactments passed annually it was continued in force until 1849. The Act applied only to traders and the term "trader" was very strictly defined. In 1844 an Act for the relief of non-traders was passed by which such persons were protected from arrest under civil process. In 1864 a new Insolvent Act was passed which applied in Lower Canada to all persons. This Act was repealed in 1869 and the Insolvent Act of 1869, which applied to traders only, was substituted. The Act of 1869 was by its terms limited to four years, but in 1874 it was continued until the following year, and in 1875 a permanent Act was passed applicable to traders only, and this Act was repealed on the 1st of April, 1880.

In New Brunswick, prior to Confederation, there was no bankruptcy or insolvency law, nor any provision for the distribution of a person's estate other than by ordinary process and there was no law against preferences.

In Nova Scotia a remedial law intended to supplement and mitigate the law of imprisonment for debt was in force before Confederation, and in British Columbia and Vancouver Island the English bankruptcy law of 1849 was in force until those provinces became part of the Dominion.

Present Laws.

In Ontario and the Western provinces very strict laws are now in force prohibiting unjust preferences of one creditor over another. There are also laws abolishing priority between execution creditors. Assignments for the benefit of creditors providing for a ratable distribution of an insolvent debtor's property among his creditors without preference or priority (except claims given by law or statute a preference such as wages) are valid and for certain purposes the assignee is the representative of the creditors. These Acts also contain provisions for the examination of the debtor and for the contestation of creditors' claims. Under these Acts the assignee is in the first place