

eye of an honest man there is no difference. But in the eye of the law the one is frequently shielded, while the other is not. The thief can be apprehended on the street and dragged off to prison, but the dead-beat must not even be asked on the street to pay up. A Canadian court it is said has recently declared that it constitutes an assault to ask a man on the street for money due. He must not be dunned through the mails on a post card, etc., etc., and in various other ways he is protected from the indignity which is justly due him, as well as shielded from legal process by technicalities, quibbles, etc. What right has the dead beat any more than the thief to any such protection or exemption?

Then there is the civil service dead beat, who is by no means a *rara avis*, who is actually encouraged in dishonesty by the protection afforded him from his creditors. In his case it seems the Government actually becomes an accomplice in cheater. The honest men in the service should make an effort to have this stigma removed.

The proper purport of law would seem to be to provide a simple, inexpensive and speedy means of obtaining justice for and maintaining the rights of citizens. Is it simple? Is it inexpensive? The man who would go to law with any such belief, would certainly prove himself a simpleton indeed. Instead of being simple and inexpensive, it is so intricate, so tardy and so expensive, that men who have had a taste of law, will prefer to suffer great injustice, indignity and loss, rather than invoke its "protection." Were the law made simple and inexpensive it would never suit the host of legal lights, who get their best pickings through the technicalities, quibbles and intricacies of the system. That the law stands in its present unsatisfactory state is perhaps largely due to the fact that the legal gentlemen who take so active a part in assisting to make the law also make their living out of it.

PROPOSED EXHIBITION FOR WINNIPEG.

The new city council has made a commendable move in at once taking up the question of holding an exhibition in Winnipeg next fall, as suggested by Mayor Pearson. The council is not taking hold of the matter a day too soon. It is not too early to thoroughly organize and begin to get things in shape for the exhibition. The earlier organization is perfected the better, and efforts to make the proposed exhibition a great success, should not be allowed to flag until all arrangements have been fully perfected.

Winnipeg can and will do something creditable if the people will only get down to the work in real earnest, and as already intimated, the matter is not being taken up any too early in the year. If it is fully decided to go on with the affair (and there is no reason to doubt that such will not be the decision), let the work commence in earnest at once. A first-class exhibition or nothing should be the motto. Something that will eclipse all former efforts in this line should be the resolve from the start.

Grounds and buildings will have to be procured for the exhibition, and these should be of a permanent nature. They should first be in a central locality as can be secured, and build-

ings of a creditable nature should be erected. If good buildings are erected, they will be an incentive to continue the exhibitions in the future. It would be a penny-wise policy to put up inferior buildings. We should go in with the understanding that the exhibition is to be a permanent affair, to be held every year. Not a spasmodic effort this year and dropped next. Creditable grounds and buildings are, therefore, the first thing necessary, and when these are procured there will be a great deal accomplished toward the permanency of the exhibition, and its success in future years.

Winnipeg has shown very little interest and ambition in this matter in years past. Exhibitions which have been held spasmodically in the past, have not been at all creditable to either the city or country. An effort should be made to retrieve our reputation in this respect. The plan of interesting all the different organizations in the work is a good one. Though the purpose of the exhibition should be largely to make a display of the agricultural products of the country, it should by no means stop there. Let it be an exhibition of the natural wealth of all western Canada, agricultural, mineral or otherwise. An effort should be made to have every district west of the great lakes represented; every industry shown forth. It should not be a Winnipeg affair, but for the benefit of all the country. If the exhibition can be worked up on these lines, it should prove of great advantage to the country at large. It could be advertised all over the country, and no doubt very low excursion rates could be arranged for from eastern Canada and from Minnesota. Reduced local rates can no doubt be secured. The usual farmers' excursions from the east are in about the time of year the exhibition would be held. Such an exhibition as this should prove to be an advertisement for the country of great value.

In addition to displays of products, etc., the occasion should be made one of general celebration. Advantage should be taken of every possible means of drawing a great crowd, and adding to the attractive features of the exhibition week. In this way it could be made to prove of considerable commercial value to the city, and the citizens would be amply repaid for the time and money given to the enterprise. The city may be expected to come down handsomely, both in a private and public capacity, in aiding the enterprise. As a first class exhibition would be of great advantage to the country at large, it is only fair to also expect a good grant from the Legislature. Let the citizens start in earnestly to provide the celebration, and the country the agricultural, mineral and other exhibits, and the affair will be a success. It would also seem to be a good idea to have the country represented on the management. If representative men all over the country could be interested in the matter, it would have the effect of creating a more favorable impression outside. Besides, one good man in each district taking a part in the affair, would mean that he would interest a number of his neighbors to attend and send exhibits. The country should have an exhibition in keeping with the vastness of its resources, and now that Winnipeg has taken hold of the matter, let it be carried through with enthusiasm and energy.

ALL FAVOR THE CONVENTION.

Every mail brings a batch of letters from country dealers, all favorable—many enthusiastically so—to the proposed retailers' convention at Winnipeg. The majority seem to think that about the middle of March would be the best time for holding the convention. "It will result in great good to all concerned," says one. Another writes that "it is just the thing required by the country merchants." Another says "there are a great many subjects of common interest which could be profitably discussed at such a gathering." A number refer to the better question, and are anxious that some action should be taken to have this trade placed on a more satisfactory basis. One dealer says: "There cannot be one solid objection raised against the convention. By all means call a convention." Another says "there are a score of subjects which might be discussed, and conclusions arrived at which would place the retail dealers of the west in a position worthy of their calling. The present system of giving credit is a burlesque on trade." Another dealer complains of the exemption laws, as a great injury to dealers, and thinks this matter might be discussed and brought before the Legislature while it is in session. Retail merchants in the country towns have good reason to complain of the exemption regulations, and the reference to this point by the correspondent referred to is timely. The exemption regulations as a rule work directly to the disadvantage of the retail dealer, while in some respects favoring other creditors of the farmers.

Another matter which is referred to by a correspondent who writes in favor of the convention, is the freight regulations, which allows settlers to bring in large quantities of commodities for sale, at very low freight rates. Considerable quantities of provisions, etc., are brought in from the east by incoming settlers, at the very low freight rates charged on settlers' effects, while merchants who import the same class of goods, would have to pay double the rates. Goods brought in in this way can therefore be sold at lower prices than are charged by regular dealers. In this matter the railway companies could be requested to see that only such articles as can be legitimately classed as settlers' effects, should be allowed to come in under the immigrant freight tariff. These are only a few of the points mentioned in letters received, but they are sufficient to show that the idea of holding a convention is being heartily endorsed by retailers all over the country.

THE partnership existing between A. F. Reykdal and B. L. Baldwinson, boot and shoe merchants, Winnipeg, has been dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be carried on by A. F. Reykdal.

A number of delegates from municipalities along the line of the Manitoba and Northwestern railway arrived in Winnipeg last week to ask the local government to assume the burden of the bonuses granted to that railway company. The amount of the bonuses which the municipalities want the Government to assume is about \$340,000.