

officials had provoked if not encouraged. The vote to such men of a grant of 320 acres looks like a big thing until you come to examine it, and then one sees that it is a fraud of the most palpable description. Any person who wants to settle can get 100 acres of Government land for nothing and get the other 100 acres for one dollar per acre, so that taken at its best it is but a present of 100 acres of land. But when we find out that in order to avail themselves of this gift, our volunteers have either to settle on the place themselves or put some one else on it within one year, we see how misleading the offer is and of how little value it can be to our brave volunteers, most of whom are city men and have no desire to leave home and their present occupations to get this very liberal reward of their valor. In lieu of this land they can elect to take \$80.00 worth of scrip which will be accepted by our Government in payment for North-West lands only. From this it will be easily seen that the government consider this \$80.00 of scrip is about equivalent to the original offer of lands. This scrip will only bring about 50 cents on the dollar, so when boiled down to hard pan this reward means about \$40 in hard cash. It is liberality with a vengeance. Compare this grant of \$40.00 as a reward to men who have endured incredible hardships and risked their lives for four months, with the extra allowance of \$500 to the members of the Dominion Parliament for attending to their duties during the same period and taking things easy at Ottawa and we have the true inwardness of Canadian politics. It is a disgrace to Canada and certainly no encouragement to citizens to peril their lives for their country when their services are met by such a sourvy recognition.

#### THE INSOLVENT ACT.

As a great many people prophesied, Sir John Macdonald has again squelched the "Insolvent Act" for another year, at least, by keeping it back until it was too late for the House to consider it this session. This action is a pretty fair specimen of the way politicians in Canada regard the interests of the country as compared with those of party. A new "Insolvent Act" is a measure unanimously demanded by the mercantile community from Halifax to Vancouver; it is one that is essentially just in every

particular, and moreover, in consequence of the want of such an Act, business is unsettled at home, and Canadian credit suffers abroad. These things have been represented to the Premier both in Canada and England a score of times. He has been interviewed by commercial deputations, who pointed out to him the necessity of legislation in this direction, and on every occasion has replied that he was thoroughly in sympathy with the object they had in view and would do his utmost to carry it into effect. How he has carried out those oft-repeated promises, the records of the past three sessions will tell.

The session just closed was the longest one since Confederation; the Government has brought in measures entirely uncalled for, and which were so glaringly partizan in character that they provoked enough discussion to make the session fully double its usual length. A Franchise Bill that cannot possibly come into force until the next general election, a couple of years from now; a Bill to grant a few more millions to the C. P. R. millionaires—those and such like political measures, that are only intended to serve partizan purposes, were rushed through in spite of clamour and protest, whilst such legislation as "The Insolvent Act" was coolly shelved until a more convenient season.

There is altogether too much politics and too little patriotism about our legislators to suit commercial men. If they would consider the interests of Canada just about one-tenth what they do that of their party, the country would be more economically governed and be in a much more prosperous condition. Our rulers apparently do not ask themselves "What is best for the country?" but "What is best for our party?" In their scales and with their weights, party goes down and country up every time.

Although the "Insolvent Act" has been shelved for the time being, it is ultimately bound to carry. If Sir John Macdonald had thought that it would have strengthened his party any it would have been long ago; as matters stand at present it will remain in *statute quo* until he sees that holding it back longer will hurt his chances of re-election. When that time comes his party will suddenly get new light upon the subject, and it will go through with a rush. In the meantime our merchants must agitate the question and let those in power see that they mean business and are bound to have such an Act.

#### AN ADVANCE IN AMERICAN MOVEMENTS.

Since our last issue the price of nearly all American watch movements has advanced somewhat, an indication, we think, of a revival in trade in the United States. As we pointed out in our last issue, any such advance is sure to be taken advantage of by their Swiss competitors, who will now be able to compete against them more favorably than before. Without any disparagement to the movements made by Swiss manufacturers, it is safe to say that people in Canada prefer American-made goods at anything like the same figures. When, however, the difference becomes too apparent, the sales of Swiss goods increase and they displace American goods to an equal amount. Heretofore American movement manufacturers have made a special export price to Canadian trade in the form of a five per cent. concession, which they now propose to take away and make them pay the same prices as American jobbers. In so doing, we think they are making a mistake. They have almost complete possession of their own and the Canadian market, and in order to keep the latter they are bound to make some concessions in order to bring the price down as near as possible to American prices. Every per cent. they increase in the export trade, they lessen their chance of doing business, and this, we fancy, their Swiss competitors will not be slow to take advantage of. Swiss manufacturers are now working hard to bring their movements up to a standard where they can successfully compete with American movements in quality and undersell them in price. When they get there, as they assuredly shall some day, fancy prices will become a thing of the past, and watch movements will get down to rock bottom prices. At present American manufacturers have a strong lead, and we think if they are wise they will do nothing to lessen it.

We do not anticipate that the slight advance on movements will affect the trade injuriously. The crop reports are excellent, and if the harvest is secured in good condition, the prospects for a large and good-paying fall trade are almost all that could be desired. If the United States is also blessed with an abundant harvest and a return of prosperous times, we are of the opinion, that although prices of low grade movements