

ors, \$25; local solicitors' fees, advertising, stock-taking, collecting, etc., \$50; total, \$500. This leaves \$295 to pay the \$390 of preferred wage claims, but it will be observed that it has cost just \$295 more to realize the assets with which to pay them. These are the figures in an actual case, and it is not an exceptional one.

The wage-earners have neither money nor courage to embark amongst the rocks and breakers of litigation. The work of liquidation could easily have been done for less than one-third of the money spent on it. How can this state of affairs be remedied?

It is suggested that in order to meet this difficulty the statute should be amended so as to make it compulsory to assign to a resident of the county in which the insolvent carried on business. In that way the evils attendant on having a man of straw in the employ of the largest creditor would, in the majority of instances, be avoided. The cases in which small insolvents have only one large outside creditor are very numerous. The person who is on the ground, and having local knowledge, can wind up an estate more speedily and cheaply by far than a distant stranger can. Provision should also be made for compelling the assignee either to give security or to establish to the satisfaction of the County Judge that he has sufficient property within the county to secure the creditors from loss by the squandering of the insolvent's assets. An assignee who has no property is not amenable to civil process, and the criminal law does not recoup the losses of those who set it in motion. The accounts of the assignee should be passed before the County Judge. The judge should have power to disallow all unreasonable charges and excessive expenditure, and to see that outlay bears a reasonable ratio to results.

If these changes were made, we would have fewer assignees charging a dollar for paying over a dollar to the creditors. There seems to be no question but that some remedy should be provided to protect the debtor and the small creditor from the rapacity of the figurehead assignee, and his owner, the controlling creditor.

It might be well, also, to provide for a full and searching examination of the assignor and others upon oath. In very many instances the whole of the assets do not come to the assignee's hands. At present the only way in which the assignor can be examined, or discovery made, is by having one of the