

who commence on their own account, without any of that general knowledge of business which is an absolute essential to success. So long as they are in the shop or factory such men are at home. But when they come to buying and making contracts, and selling on credit; when they are required to give promissory notes, to make banking arrangements, and to raise money, they are hopelessly "at sea." A single twelvemonth is enough to bring to an end a considerable number of them, but if, by good luck, or general easy times, they manage to survive a year or two more, the first gale that blows causes shipwreck. To all such as these, the best advice that can be given is to go back to the position they formerly held. Become a foreman or clerk again. It was a far happier lot than the new one. And a man can be happy again where he was happy before.

Some of these features have been brought about by idleness; others by extravagance. These two generally go together. Others by neglecting legitimate business for speculation. All are things which might have been avoided. Nine failures out of ten reflect more or less on the insolvent. Some of them are plainly the result of scheming to make money by insolvency. Creditors have a good deal of responsibility in these matters. In many cases the simple desire to avoid trouble leads them to acquiesce in most dishonest arrangements. There is too much of mawkish sympathy abroad in these matters. The "unfortunate debtor," in our judgment, has received sadly too much of this either for his own good or that of the community. Of the fifteen hundred people who have failed this year, it would be far better if a thousand, at least, never went back to business again. And it is only mistaken kindness to help them back.

THE INSPECTION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Arrangements are now being rapidly made by the Government to carry out the provisions of the Act which received His Excellency's assent on the 23rd May, 1873, (36th Victoria, Chap. 47,) and which makes provision for the uniform inspection of Weights and Measures. On the 30th September the following were named as the inspection districts:

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| 1. Windsor. | 6. Quebec. |
| 2. London. | 7. Nova Scotia. |
| 3. Toronto. | 8. New Brunswick. |
| 4. Kingston. | 9. Manitoba. |
| 5. Montreal. | 10. Columbia. |

These districts are subdivided into inspection divisions, which were intended to embrace as nearly 50,000 persons each as

practicable; this has resulted, so far as Ontario is concerned, in all the populous counties being made divisions. These divisions are to be under charge of Deputy Inspectors, most of whom were appointed during last month.

The carrying out of this Act is a matter of intimate concern to the traders of Canada—in fact, to all classes of the community. There can be very little doubt, we fancy, that much irregularity exists at present in the weights, scales, and weighing machines generally in use, more particularly in remote districts. In thousands of cases, quite unintentionally as a general rule, persons are cheating themselves or the public in this way every day; the deviation from exactness may generally be small but it amounts to something considerable in the course of a year. That it is desirable some efforts should be made, in justice to both buyers and sellers, to have all weights and measures made and kept as correct and uniform as possible, will be generally allowed. Two years after this we will be better able to judge whether this Act, with the system of inspection it provides, has accomplished the purpose in view.

To make provision for carrying out the Act, Mr. Brunel, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, was instructed to visit England in 1873, where he studied the English and French systems, and ordered standards for weights, measures, and gas, of the most modern, reliable, and, we may add, costly character. The time required to furnish these standards has been the principal cause why the Act has not already been put into force.

The Act makes some important alterations as regards measures. It provides for the introduction and use in Canada of the Imperial measures of capacity instead of those now generally employed. So far as weights and lineal measures are concerned, there is no material alteration; but in measures of capacity the changes are such as materially affect business transactions. The principal of these is the adoption of the Imperial for the Winchester bushel, and the Imperial for the Wine gallon, the Winchester bushel and Wine gallon being at present in use in the United States and Canada.

The Imperial bushel is a fraction over three per cent. larger than the Winchester bushel. This alteration will not be much felt. Mostly all grain, corn, seeds, &c., are now sold by weight, and although the term bushel is used, dealers mean a bushel of a certain weight. Ever since 1853 a bushel of wheat has been 60 lbs., and now that the Imperial bushel has been introduced, it would be well that all our purchases or

sales of grain should be by the *cental* or 100 lbs. A little experience would prove this to be the simplest and most correct mode of computation.

The greatest change is from the Wine to the Imperial gallon for the measurement of liquids. The latter is exactly one-fifth larger than the former; by adding one-fifth to the Wine gallon, or deducting one-sixth from the Imperial, the one measure can readily be converted into the other. This is a very considerable change, but the law does not make the adoption of the Imperial gallon compulsory till 1880; at the same time, it should be borne in mind by the trade and the public, that in all transactions in which the Wine gallon now in use is not specially mentioned, the Imperial gallon—one-fifth larger—is understood. The time which is allowed before the adoption of the Imperial gallon is rendered compulsory, has been granted so that the change may not be seriously felt by the public, and that plenty of time may be given for the purchase of new measures, the cost of which for the whole of Canada must be very large.

It is claimed by Mr. Brunel, that greater convenience will be gained by using the Imperial bushel and gallon, but the elucidation of this point would lead us into too wide a field of discussion. So far as the United States is concerned, the change will prove inconvenient to the trade between us, but it appears that, with the exception of our neighbours and the Island of Newfoundland, no other countries whatever now use the Winchester bushel and the old wine gallon.

Returning to the Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors appointed under the Act, it appears they will each have an office in some central part of their divisions, fitted up specially to ensure the accuracy of their standards. The public can go to these offices at any time and have their weights, measures, beams, scales, &c., examined, compared, and, if correct, stamped. Besides this, periodical visits will be made to each important locality in the division. The nature of this visit of the Inspector will probably be best explained by the 23rd clause of the Act, which is as follows:—

23.—Each Deputy Inspector shall, upon each day or days, and at such place and places as may be from time to time appointed by the Inspector of his district, in pursuance of such departmental regulations as may be made in that behalf, and of which day or days, place or places, public notice shall be given in the manner provided by such regulations, attend with his inspection standards and other apparatus, for the purpose of inspecting all weights, measures and weighing machines, and shall