

creditor to vote, on the ground that his claim was partly or wholly secured, would often necessitate vexatious delays, and the expense of a contestation to decide whether and to what extent the claim in dispute was secured.

That although the delay of 48 hours, specified in clause 7, was approved by the council last year, experience convinces us that the present delay of 24 hours is ample, and in numerous cases even that period is detrimental to the interests of creditors.

The committee make a further and much more important recommendation, which is that the Dominion Government should pass an act dealing with insolvency in all the provinces.

It has been shown that the laws of each province contain, among a number of useful and reasonable provisions, certain clauses which show glaring defects and give rise to gross abuses. There is no reason why an understanding should not be come to with the provincial governments, whereby one uniform law can be applied throughout the whole Dominion, superseding the provincial acts and leaving out their palpable defects. The present condition of our provincial insolvency laws is disgraceful.

The local law in British Columbia is said to be better than most of the others, and the B. C. COMMERCIAL JOURNAL suggests that the Premier of the province, who drafted it, should be asked to draw up an act for the Dominion House. One general act embodying the virtues and discarding the defects of the various provincial acts ought now to be a much easier task than when the old Dominion Act was passed.

DANGERS FROM IMPURE SOAP.

If there be any one thing physicians shrink from recommending, it is soap; and yet a pure, reliable soap is one of the greatest importance. In the treatment of many diseases and in giving advice on hygiene in general medical men are continually searching for a safe, non-poisonous soap. Adulteration in the manufacture and the admixture of chemicals to make up in appearance what is lacking in quality make this a subject well worthy of consideration.

For use in the bath room, and for general toilet purposes, a thoroughly reliable soap is of the greatest importance. Many cases of eczema have resulted from the use of a soap extensively advertised and recommended as absolutely pure. Physicians are frequently asked concerning the care of the hair. Many ladies have ruined a handsome head of hair and turned it permanently gray by using ammonia in the bathing water, or the suds of some much advertised soap containing dangerous ingredients. In the treatment of chronic eczema of children and especially that form known as "baby's sore head," a pure soap is positively requisite in effecting a cure. It would be well to remember this.

Many people purchase their soap at the counters of dry goods stores and of groceries, for the simple reason that they are being sold at reduced rates, and are therefore cheap. In many instances the result is that they are obliged to consult some physician for some skin disease or for

some "humor of the blood." Not infrequently medical men are perplexed in the treatment of skin disease by the obstinate continuance of the malady, and the cause is sought for without satisfactory result. It often happens that some apparently simple skin disease is aggravated by the use of impure and dangerous soap, the character of which has not been suspected by the patient, and is unknown to the medical attendant.

The abuse has reached such proportions that some legal protection against adulterated soap is unquestionably needed. Soap is very commonly used for injections, and this generally without medical advice. Where an inferior soap is used, containing injurious ingredients, the delicate mucous membrane of the bowel is injured; and, as a result, constipation is induced, perhaps obstinate rectal disease originated.

In general, it is safe to avoid perfumed soaps, and never to buy any kind except of some reliable druggist; and, if possible, the medical attendant's advice in this matter is well worth having.—*Democrat*.

Edmund Clarence Stedman of New York has been elected president of the American Copyright League.

The feeling at Washington is that the difficulty between the United States and Chili will be amicably adjusted.

It has been decided to close the Commonwealth National Bank in Philadelphia and adopt the plan of liquidation.

FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

The following are the shipments for the month of December:

	TONS.
New V. C. Co.....	19,760
Wellington.....	16,898
East Wellington.....	2,720
Union.....	7,020

Total.....48,398

RECAPITULATION FOR THE YEAR 1891.

	TONS.
New V. C. Co.....	377,561
Wellington.....	229,271
East Wellington.....	36,085
Union.....	94,990

Total.....737,907

OUT-PUT AND SHIPMENTS.

The out-put and shipments for the New Vancouver Coal Company for the year 1891 were as follows:

	OUT-PUT 1891.	SHIPMENTS.
	TONS. CWT.	TONS. CWT.
Southfield.....	201,627 17	198,965 3
No. 3 Shaft.....	61,245 8	62,310 16
No. 1 Shaft.....	158,329 19	157,494 9
Northfield.....	108,006 10	104,528 15

Total.....528,590 14 523,299 3

The total out-put of 528,590 tons is the largest yet attained by this company or, in fact, any colliery in British Columbia, says the *Nanaimo Free Press*, which should be the best authority on the subject. The New V. C. Co., in 1890, had a total out-put of 389,505 tons, which, in comparison, shows an increase of 139,085 tons in favor of the New Vancouver Coal Company for the year just closing. This speaks volumes for the energetic management of the Company, for the out-put has reached over half a million tons, representing an export value of \$2,114,300.

THE EXPORT OF COAL FOR 1891.

The total amount of coal exported from January 1, 1891, to December 31, 1891, ex-

ceeds the amount exported in 1890, by over a quarter of a million tons.

Export for 1891.....	758,309 tons
Export for 1890.....	680,270 tons

Excess for 1891.....258,039 tons

The value of the coal exported this year is \$2,913,322.

	OF THE AMOUNT OF COAL EXPORTED, THE
United States received.....	737,062 tons
Mexico.....	1,621 "
Hawaiian Islands.....	5,780 "
Hong Kong.....	5,405 "
Japan.....	3,242 "
Australia.....	1,793 "

The increase in the export of coal from British Columbia, may be seen by the following statement of exports from the year 1887:

YEAR.	EXPORT.
1887.....	331,839 tons
1888.....	365,714 "
1889.....	443,675 "
1890.....	508,270 "
1891.....	758,300 "

The export for 1891 is more than double the export of 1887 or 1888.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

The village of Aurora, Iowa, has been wiped out by fire.

In Milan, Italy, there were 73 deaths in one day from influenza.

Lord Vivian has been appointed British Ambassador to St. Petersburg.

Of the 13,000,000 inhabitants of Mexico, it is said 10,000 own all the land outside the cities.

Hartman & Mendelshon, cloak manufacturers, of New York, are financially embarrassed. Liabilities \$50,000; assets unknown.

The Trades and Labor Council of Hamilton have passed strong resolutions against municipalities granting bonuses to industries, especially when it results in the removal of a business from one municipality to another, and decided to take steps towards urging an amendment in the law. The council will ask the co-operation of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the trades and labor councils of other cities and labor organizations. The action of this body is certainly fully justified. The Ontario Government, seeing the evil caused to the province by the depraved habit of bonus hunting by manufacturers, who made a business of moving from town to town, simply living on bonuses, passed a law to remedy this specific evil; but for some reason it has failed to operate. Unfortunately the disease has spread to other provinces besides Ontario. The bacteria of this disorder, to use a medical term, finds a more fruitful soil in the ignorance and simplicity of municipal councillors, and, until there is more enlightenment among municipal boards as to the true nature of the evil, there is little chance of permanent improvement. If councillors would bring to bear in the governing of a town the same common-sense they show in conducting their own business affairs, the professional bonus hunter would soon be killed off. There are occasions and circumstances where bonuses may be granted with advantage, under proper securities; but corporations of marshy and stagnated towns cannot always lift themselves out of the mud by their own boot straps.