

## THE TRADER.

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## Editorial.

## THE OUTLOOK.

The Ontario Bureau of Agricultural Statistics has just issued its first report, which, on the whole, is highly satisfactory. It shows that, although we cannot look forward to the wonderful harvest of last year, a good average crop will reward the labors of our farmers. To a country like Canada, that depends for its prosperity mainly upon its agricultural resources, this is cheering news, for it indicates a prolongation of the good times that we have lately experienced. When crops are good the country is prosperous because the farmers are enabled to pay their debts and launch out into small extravagances that in hard times they would never dream of. This enables the merchants throughout the country to meet their bills with promptitude and gives an increased impetus to a thousand industries which would be otherwise depressed. The fact is that in a country like Canada the difference between good and bad times is simply the difference between a good and bad harvest. The outlook is promising, and it may be confidently predicted that the country is safe for another year.

## AS USUAL.

As usual, party politics have proved stronger than national necessities, and consequently the bill for the rateable distribution of an insolvent's assets and many other equally good legislative measures have been consigned to the political limbo, or, in parliamentary language, "have received the six months' hoist." This is much to be regretted, not only because it argues ill for the

country when necessary mercantile legislation is thrust aside to make way for such uncalled for legal monstrosities as the Re-distribution Bill, but because the non-passage of an insolvent act at the present juncture may very seriously cripple our mercantile interests.

It is now too late in the day for any one to attempt to controvert the broad principle which underlies all Insolvent Acts, viz. that an insolvent's estate should be divided *pro rata* amongst all his creditors, and the truth of this being admitted, it follows as a matter of course that any law, or want of law, which will allow one creditor to take everything and allow the rest nothing, must be essentially unjust both in principle and practice. This injustice is freely admitted by politicians as well as mercantile men, and but for the exigencies of party politics, would have been legislated upon ere this. Party politics, however, have as usual overtopped every other consideration, and as a result, the country will for another year have to struggle against a condition of things highly prejudicial to honest dealing. We have before had occasion to point out some of the evils connected with the want of a good insolvent act, and it would be superfluous to again go over the same ground. We may however in passing, say that every day brings to light new specimens of how easily a debtor can legally enrich himself at the expense of his creditors.

Shall this state of affairs continue? We hope not, for it is certainly for the best interests of both debtor and creditor to have some law by which an equitable division of an insolvent's estate could be made. Such a law would not only protect each class more fully in case of failure, but would help to strengthen the credit and standing of debtors, who would then be beyond the reach of personal malice and sudden panic.

The importance of this subject is becoming more apparent every day, and we trust that another year will not be allowed to pass over without some fair and comprehensive law being placed upon the statute book to meet the necessity.

## THE ELECTIONS.

In spite of the many attempts to hoodwink the people, it has been for a long time apparent that the session just ended was to be the closing one of

the present parliament of Canada. Even a blind man might have seen that the Re-distribution Bill meant nothing more nor less than the strongest party were getting themselves ready for the fray.

Now that parliament has been prorogued and further concealment is useless, the cat is finally allowed to come out of the bag, and the official announcement is made that the writs are to be issued on the 18th and the elections to take place on the 20th of the present month.

Now that the elections have been decided upon, it is just as well that they should be decided at once. Business will be sure to be at a standstill until they are settled, and the shorter the time for preparation the better for the country at large.

With the exception of a few pot-hunting politicians, people do not make any money out of politics, therefore the less time wasted upon it the better. As a rule, most people have already made up their minds how they will vote, and six months haranguing and canvassing would fail to make any decided change in them. This being the case, we think the sooner they are decided the better both for the country and for the candidates themselves.

The duty of every elector is now apparent, each one should weigh carefully the merits or demerits of both parties and cast their ballot according to their honest convictions. If they are satisfied with the general policy of the government then vote to sustain them in power; if on the contrary, they think that the government have abused the trust confided to them by the people, then they should vote to replace them by what they consider better men. In any case however, they should vote intelligently and as the result of their honest convictions and refuse to be led by the nose by political demagogues to whom these elections are simply a question of outs and ins.

No elector should shirk the vote; the franchise is the freeman's heritage, and a privilege not only to be proud of but one that should be exercised as a duty that each owes to their country.

## DO WE NEED A CANADIAN HOROLOGICAL SCHOOL?

Although Canada possesses a large number of good practical watchmakers, it also has a great number of very poor ones who are anything but a credit to their calling. We do not know of anything