

rupt bill which, it is thought, will be acceptable to all honest citizens, and which Senator Hoar, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, who has been urging the enactment of a bankruptcy law for the past fifteen years, in giving out a statement *apropos* of the Senate's acceptance of the conference report, said:—

"The present bill is a compromise. It will undoubtedly be found that in getting it through we have been obliged to leave in it some crudities and imperfections which must be remedied by subsequent legislation. It is quite likely that the fees of clerks, referees and trustees will be found to be too low. One of the great objections was that under the old law the estates were eaten up by costs and that the creditors got little or nothing. So we have pared to the quick in that particular. Instead of the long list of crimes there are only two for which a bankrupt is to be punished. One, that of willfully making a false answer in the bankruptcy proceedings; the other, the embezzlement of the property of the estate. The terms of discharge, too, are exceedingly liberal, and it is provided that farmers and wage earners will not be the subject of involuntary bankruptcy, which extends in general to merchants, manufacturers, bankers, printers and publishers, etc. There are some possible cases of fraud which the law will not prevent. But the objection to a stricter one was so great that it was not thought best to risk the success of this bill, which, as it was, has been saved as by fire by standing out for a perfect rule to be applied to cases which would not occur once in a thousand times.

"The bill seems to me a great deal better than that known as the Torrey bill in two particulars—one, that the settlement cannot be delayed by appeals to the Supreme Court of the United States except in two cases; first, where a federal question is involved, and, second, where a decision of the Supreme Court is needed for uniformity of construction throughout the country—and, next, in the provision for a summary application to a court of appeals in an interlocutory way to correct mistakes as the proceedings go on instead of waiting until the final determination in the court below and then keeping the whole estate tied up until after a final decision in the higher court.

"The bill will enable from 150,000 to 200,000 bankrupts to get on their feet again. It will enable manufacturers and merchants to get a fair division of their debtors' property, and will prevent a great deal of fraud, embezzlement and wasteful dealing with property."

COURTING CLOSER RELATIONS.

*Bonny Charlie's gone awa',
Will he ne'er come back again.*

A steady, trusty, well-conducted regiment of Canadian citizen soldiery are about to leave Montreal to visit a city in the United States for the purpose of joining in the celebration of the declaration of independence of a former colony of Great Britain. In

selecting our "trusty friends," the Royal Scots, to represent Canada, the city of Portland has done well, and it is pleasing to note that the Dominion Government is approving and encouraging this international merry-making on the "Glorious Fourth;" that the Grand Trunk railway stands ready to convey an armed force across the border with all the speed and comfort possible; and that the people of Portland are killing the fatted calf and reading the Maine Liquor Law in pleasant if disturbed anticipation of the arrival of their guests.

That the Royal Scots, Colonel Ibbotson, officers and men, will create a good impression upon our brethren across the line is as certain as is their meeting with a warm reception, and we hope to receive glowing accounts of our soldiers' departure and return and of their doings in the hospitable city of Portland. It may be taken for granted that the peaceable invasion of the United States by these gallant wearers of the kilt, plaid and bonnet, will be regarded on both sides of the border as another step in the direction of closer relations between new allies, and as a distinct advance towards the time when a federation of the English-speaking race will ensure peace and freedom all over the civilized world.

Newspaper correspondents will doubtless find inspiration in the scene, and, as the Royal Scots march, like the Cameron men, with "light springing foot-step trampling" the streets of Portland, the cheering of our Republican brethren, the smiling faces and bright eyes of lovely women, and the martial swing of the picturesque Scottish Canadians will be accepted as a proof that the descendants of the men who signed a memorable declaration on a certain fourth of July, and the loyal people of a great and growing Dominion of the Queen, the sons of former foes, have shaken hands in everlasting amity and as a token of mutual respect, good will and support in time of danger. So mote it be.

The advocacy of closer relations between the United States and Canada is not confined to occasional exchanges of fraternal greetings between visiting volunteers, firemen and charitable societies.

Every public man who sets foot in either country is expected to and does voice the general desire for a partial removal of the tariff wall and every other obstacle to the closest intercourse. The Hon. H. T. Duffy, Minister of Public Works, as the guest of the United Boards of Trade of the Merrimack Valley, at their recent outing and banquet, has been making "an eloquent and notable address" on the relations between Canada, the United States and Great Britain, and his words are significant of the times, and ring with the increasing desire of public men to cultivate the sudden growth of brotherly feeling between people having so much in common to work and perhaps fight for.

Such an address as that of the Hon. Mr. Duffy is good to hear, and such a stirring sight as the streets of Portland will show on Monday next, when the