

BOOKS AND NOTIONS

ORGAN OF THE

Book, News and Stationery Associations of Canada.

Subscription, \$1.00 a Year in Advance.

OFFICE :

No. 10 FRONT ST. EAST, TORONTO.

Montreal Office 116 St. James St.

E. DESBARATS, Agent.

New York Office Room 91 Times Building.

ROY V. SOMERVILLE, Agent.

European Branch:

Canadian Government Offices,

17 Victoria St., London, S.W.

R. HARGREAVES, Agent.

RATES OF ADVERTISING :

One Page	1 Month	\$45 00
One-Half Page	"	25 00
One-Fourth Page	"	15 00
One Column	"	10 00
Half Column	"	6 00
Quarter Column	"	3 50
Eighth Column	"	2 00
One Page	12 Months	250 00
One-Half Page	"	150 00
One-Fourth Page	"	85 00
One Column	"	100 00
Half Column	"	60 00
Quarter Column	"	35 00
Eighth Column	"	18 00

Copy for advertisements must reach this office not later than the 25th of the month for the succeeding month's issue.

BOOKS AND NOTIONS, TORONTO.

Vol. IX. Toronto, Dec., 1893. No 12

WORLD'S FAIR PRIZES.

THE benefit that may be derived by individual persons or firms who have won prizes, medals or awards at the World's Columbian Exhibition, suggests the idea that all this might be made a means of bringing a very great deal of special renown to Canada.

The custom in this fair, as in others, will likely be that these awards will be sent to the Dominion Government at Ottawa, who in its turn will send them to the various Provincial Legislatures to distribute, one at a time, as they are received. A prize winner in this way will not get as much credit for his efforts or expense as he really deserves, nor will his efforts bring him further reputation than he can gain by self-advertising. The benefit therefrom will be small either to him or the country. Again, it will take years before he can recoup himself for his unusual trouble and outlay.

It would be a pity, therefore, if the great efforts that have been put forward by so many of our people to bring credit to our country, should be allowed to pass away without some action having been taken to derive the greatest benefit possible out of what has been tried and accomplished.

It is proposed, therefore, by many Canadians that the Dominion Government retain the awards till all are received. Then in due time have a large gathering in Montreal for the Province of Quebec and the East, and in Toronto for Ontario and the West. To these gatherings invite all the prize winners, who

may be represented by proxy if they could not personally be present, when they will receive with special honor and renown, the reward they have so well earned.

The occasion could be made a great advertisement for Canada, showing the world in a special and marked manner, months after the Chicago Fair has passed away and when its excitement cannot mar the interest in our resources and advantages, in a renewed and more effective way.

With patriotic speeches by eloquent men and extensive preparations made to have them thoroughly reported in foreign newspapers, each individual would be well recompensed for what he had done for himself and his country, and by the publicity given him induce him and others to put forward greater efforts at the next world's fair, to show all nations that not only are we a people financially strong, but that in all that pertains to make a great nation, either in art, science manufactures, agriculture, horticulture, mining or forestry, educationally, piscatorially, or any other way, we are able to compete and hold our own.

This idea, therefore, is commended to the care of the Manufacturers' Association and the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Toronto, to open up correspondence with the Government to the above end. There are other associations that would also be glad to join the above mentioned if they were notified and asked to assist.

This journal will be pleased to receive any suggestions from any of our readers that will help.

CHRISTMAS.

THIS is the last issue of this journal for the year 1893, and its ninth volume is finished. It is better than the eighth, and for this we are pleased. The readers of the journal are more numerous than ever, and last month's issue, with every page filled with original news, has been favorably commented upon. This month we assume a new suit of clothes and feel quite proud of our appearance.

The view taken by our readers may be different, but we hope that your neglect to read this journal as thoroughly as you might have done will not disturb your pleasant Christmas trade. We wish you the pleasantest of thoughts as you gather round your roast turkey and plumb pudding and partake of your Christmas cheer. The month gives promise of being hard and cold, and if so trade should be good in every direction. With a fair holiday trade and sufficient to make a feast on the day of "peace and goodwill"—no dealer should fear the storms of the coming year.

The old year is fast coming to a close. Let us leave it with our old clothes, and go forward with renewed hope, energy and confidence. Let us with an accordant faith, "Ring out the old, and ring in the new!"

INSOLVENCY LEGISLATION.

EVEN the printers, bookbinders, and booksellers, suffer on account of a lack of an Insolvency Law for the whole Dominion. The Trade Bulletin gives a Montreal instance and says: "The first and final dividend by Cameron, Currie & Co., printers and lithographers, has been declared, amounting to two and four-tenths cents on the dollar on ordinary claims of \$5,230.35, which are payable after November 15th at the office of the curator, Mr. T. A. Scott, if no objection be filed before that date. It must be very discouraging for the principal creditor to accept only \$25.05 on his claim of \$1,043.95, as well as for others whose claims range from \$50 to \$467. This is another instance of how an estate can be run down under the present lax condition of our bankruptcy laws. As the law now stands, there is every incentive to induce traders after they have become hopelessly insolvent to carry on their concerns until there is little or nothing left for creditors."

Debtors have no doubt as much right to protection as creditors, but neither should have more protection than is just. The man who goes in debt beyond what he is able to pay, is worthy of no consideration whatever; and the laws of the country should not enable him to trade on other men's capital, and then, when he has had enough, offer them 25 cents on the dollar and force them to take that. There is too much sympathy shown for debtors by men whose opinions are not based on the facts of the case, but on the fact that they desire to gain the debtors' good will. There are certain odd cases where good men may through misfortune fail, but these cases are only one in a hundred, and the law has no right to take notice of them.

The chattel mortgage is a disgrace to Ontario. It gives one creditor a preference, just as much as the preference assignment does in the maritime provinces. The Insolvency law as it stands in each of the provinces, with perhaps the exception of Quebec, is the most imperfect machinery that could be imagined. The results are as unjust as the decisions of a Tammany judge on a party case. The laws on insolvency and bankruptcy are a disgrace to Canada and to the provinces in which they have been promulgated. A national act is badly needed.

To-day Ontario—the banner province—has legislation which leaves creditor or debtor as much redress as it did one hundred years ago. To-day common law assignments rule, and all the legislation of the last 50 years has been thrown out by the courts. To-day every creditor who can get a judgment and an execution in the hands of a sheriff before assignment gets his claim in full with costs. Thus the creditor who "stands in" with the debtor will be the man who gets his money—the rest will get nothing. Such a state of affairs might do in the