

of Lord Parker in the House of Lords contains a number of propositions of law which are worthy of the closest study and of the great tribunal of which he is a member.

"HAMMERING" ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

The case of *In re Halstead* (32 T.L.R. 718) which was decided on July 28 by Mr. Justice Horridge, the Bankruptcy Judge, is likely to cause a considerable flutter on the London Stock Exchange. Everyone knows what is meant (in a popular sense) by a man being "hammered" on the Exchange, but it has fallen to Horridge, J., to point out the legal consequences of being declared a defaulter. A man is elected a member of the Exchange and re-elected annually. As a member he is bound by the rules. One of the rules provides that when he is unable to meet his liabilities he shall be publicly declared a defaulter. When in difficulties he makes a written request for this declaration to the secretary. Subsequently the declaration is publicly announced in the Exchange by the porter who has first arrested attention by striking his desk with a hammer. When a member is hammered his assets become vested in an officer known as the Official Assignee, who distributes them amongst the Stock Exchange creditors. Before the decision in the case above mentioned, it was well recognised that if bankruptcy supervened within three months of the fall of the hammer, the assignment to the Official Assignee was void as against the trustee in bankruptcy. It is unnecessary for present purpose to elaborate the well known principle of English bankruptcy law which makes such an assignment invalid.

THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF BEING "HAMMERED."

In the case of *re Halstead* bankruptcy supervened outside the three months, and the Official Assignee claimed the assets. But the trustee in bankruptcy disputed his title. He attacked it on two grounds. In the first place he said: "This division of a man's assets for the purpose of his Stock Exchange creditors *only* is contrary to the spirit of the bankruptcy law which