before the Dominion Franchise Act was passed, the rolls were made up, not by the Ontario Government, but by municipal officers. Reformers had no more control over them than Conservatives. The assessors were appointed by Municipal Councils, fully half of which were Conservative. Then there was an appeal, not to officers appointed by the Provincial Government, but to county judges, appointed and paid by the Dominion Government itself. Now, this resolution declares that there is no need for two voters' lists. I am not going to discuss the peculiarities of the Dominion system. I am merely pointing out that our system was one which they might with justice and convenience have used, and that there was no justification whatever for the creation of a separate Dominion list with its enormous expense, not only to the county but to the individual. We say that the system to which we propose the country should return not only was in force here for many years, but has prevailed in the neighboring Republic for over a century. The next resolution refers to the authority for appointing stipendiary magistrates. That authority has always been exercised by the Provinces and has never been claimed by the Dominion ; and yet the right of the Lieutenant-Governor to make these appointments has been challenged, and after the lapse of a quarter of a century, private individuals may raise the question in the Courts whether all the appointments of stipendiary magistrates, from one end of Canada to the other, are not so much waste paper. Surely that question should be cleared up at once by Imperial enactment. The ninth resolution affirms the necessity of an Imperial enactment making it clear that the Provinces have the right to collect fees on legal proceedings. The 10th resolution makes it clear that the Provincial Governments have the right to constitute Courts of assize and nisi prius and oyer and terminer. Difficulty has arisen here from the fact that the Dominion Government alone has power to appoint judges, while the Provincial Government alone has the power to constitute Courts. Passing by the 11th and 12th resolutions, the 13th refers to the contention of the Dominion Government that the Provinces are not entitled to any lands in which the Indian title was not extinguished before Confederation. So far that claim has been made only as regards the Province of Ontario, but of course the principle applies to all ; and so far the Courts have sustained the contention of the Province. The fourteenth resolution refers to

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY.

Under the B. N. A. Act exclusive jurisdiction on questions of bankruptcy and insolvency is vested in the Dominion Parliament. That body has so far been unable to pass any law upon the subject. Public opinion upon it varies in the different Provinces. In Ontario the feeling in favor of an insolvency law is almost universal, while a different view prevails in the Province of Quebec. What we hold is that where the Dominion Parliament has found it impossible to pass such a law a Provincial Legislature which is willing to pass such a law should have the constitutional power to do so. We have endeavored to deal with this subject to a certain extent by the Act relating to the relief of creditors, to preferences and to exemptions for execution, and to giving wages a priority in case of insolvency. But it is by no means certain that we have the power to pass these Acts, and at this moment the validity of both of them is questioned in the Courts by private litigants. This is another matter which should be made clear by Imperial enactment. I defer speaking on the other resolutions until a later period in the debate. I hope that hon. gentlemen will consider these resolutions with as little party feeling as possible. The amendments proposed are necessary and important for the purpose of removing the friction that has occurred in the working of the B. N. A. Act, for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of our institutions and for the welfare of the people of the various Provinces. We are anxious for their adoption because we believe they will result in promoting the welfare of the country, and in helping to perpetuate that British Connection which we all love. (Applause).

Mr. MEREDITH, who rose amid applause, said he agreed that the propositions now under discussion were among the most important that had ever been submitted to the Legislature, because they involved a declaration by the Province for the first time as to the principle on which amendments to the Constitution should be sought. He desired to approach the subject free from party spirit, and with a view to the interests not only of this Province but of this great Dominion. He was afraid that party spirit had been at the bottom of these resolutions, because they contained the political questions which hon. gentlemen opposite had for six or seven years been agitating. He thought that those who were asking for any change in the Constitution should establish conclusively, first, that there was a defect in the Constitution, and, secondly, that what they proposed was something better. The members of the Quebec Conference declared that they represented the people of Canada. Continuing, Mr. Meredith denounced certain speeches of Mr. Longley, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, as seditious. The hon. gentleman then gave a sketch of the origin of Confederation. He said the Constitution was no doubt susceptible of improvement. He denied the statement of the Attorney-General that the veto power was not intended to be exercised, and quoted from Hon. E. P. Tache, Sir George Cartier, Hon. George Brown, Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, Chief Justice Dorion, Hon. E. J. Dorion, Hon. John Rose and Mr. J. H. Cameron to show that all these had contemplated a liberal use of the veto power by the Dominion. He argued, moreover, that there had not been so many measures disallowed as the remarks of the Hon. Attorney-General would lead the House to believe. Only some fifty or so had been disallowed out of 1,400 or 1,500 that had been passed by the Provincial Parliaments, and of those fifty he thought there were

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concerning which there would be any doubt as to the Provincial Legislatures having exceeded their jurisdiction. The Hon. gentleman also charged the Hon. Attorney-General with being