



RUIN AND REDEMPTION

The Struggle for a Canadian Bankruptcy Law, 1867-1919

Thomas GW Telfer

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In 1880 the federal Parliament of Canada repealed the *Insolvent Act of 1875*, leaving debtor-creditor matters to be regulated by the provinces. Almost forty years later, Parliament finally passed new bankruptcy legislation, recognizing that what was once considered a moral evil had become a commercial necessity. In *Ruin and Redemption*, Thomas GW Telfer analyses the ideas, interests, and institutions that shaped the evolution of Canadian bankruptcy law in this era. Examining the vigorous public debates over the idea of bankruptcy, Telfer argues that the law was shaped by conflict over the morality of release from debts and by the divergence of interests between local and distant creditors. *Ruin and Redemption* is the first full-length study of the origins of Canadian bankruptcy law, thus making it an important contribution to the study of Canada's commercial law.

Thomas GW Telfer is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law at Western University.

Advance Praise for *Ruin and Redemption*

"It is rare to find a work on commercial law that animates the law and its history by drawing insight from political debate, social context and commentary, economic analysis and literature, as well as legislation, case law, and parliamentary records. *Ruin and Redemption* is a valuable addition to the legal and historical literature on insolvency law."

-Tamara Buckwold, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta

"*Ruin and Redemption* is a significant contribution to the history of Canadian bankruptcy law. It demonstrates skilfully how ideas and interests, and the institutional structures which shaped them, contributed to Canada rejecting bankruptcy law in 1880 and not passing a national statute until 1919. Scholars from a variety of disciplines interested in comparative analysis of bankruptcy law development will benefit from reading this book."

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