

# Ruin and Redemption: The Struggle for a Canadian Bankruptcy Law, 1867-1919 (Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History)

Thomas G W 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In 1880 the federal Parliament of Canada repealed the *Insolvent Act of 1875*, leaving debtor-creditor matters to be regulated by the provinces.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.

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