

earliest moment to treat with other banks which might desire to come under this Bill.

Hon. Mr. Rose said if the Government found there was a desire on the part of any of the banks to come under this Bill, every facility consistent with existing obligations would be given them to do so.

Hon. Mr. Holton—But, will you give at once the six months' notice of the expiration of the arrangement with the Bank of Montreal?

Hon. Mr. Rose—I cannot do so till this Bill passes.

The clause under discussion was then agreed to, and several subsequent clauses.

Mr. Morris moved an amendment to require each bank to furnish, in addition to the statements now required, a statement distinguishing the amounts of deposits bearing interest, and not bearing interest in each Province, also of the aggregate amount of notes and bills held under discount by each bank in each Province.

Hon. Mr. Rose said he saw no objection to the amendment; but he would like to consult the officers of the banks as to the form, in which it should be put and would like it to stand over till the third reading.

Hon. Mr. Galt said he thought the Finance Minister had failed to appreciate the effect of the amendment when he assented to it so readily. It would be most unreasonable to require the banks to subdivide their assets and liabilities in the way proposed, in order to give a return which in no way affected the great question of their liability to the public.

Mr. Morris, in reply to the ex-Finance Minister, contended that the information he sought was important, and that it could cause the banks no inconvenience to require them to furnish it.

Mr. Gibbs and **Hon. Mr. Holton** supported the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Dunkin thought it was not germane to this Bill.

Hon. Mr. Holton wished to know whether the member for Sherbrooke and the member for Brome had resolved to oppose the Government on this question, the Minister of Finance having accepted the amendment as regarded the spirit of it, and which he (Mr. Holton) was happy to assist the Government in accepting.

[Mr. Holton (Chateauguay).]

Hon. Mr. Galt said he did intend to oppose the Government on this clause, and he thought they must distrust the wisdom of their course in accepting it when they found themselves supported by the member for Chateauguay. He could not see what public interest was to be served by requiring a bank to state what amount of notes they discounted in Ontario, and what amount in Quebec.

Mr. Mackenzie hoped the Finance Minister would persist in the course he had intimated of accepting the amendment of the member for Lanark, although he was afraid the influence of the member for Sherbrooke and the Bank of Montreal would be too strong to allow him to do so.

Mr. Pope opposed the amendment. He did not think this prying into the affairs of banks was necessary for the protection of public interests.

Mr. Morris asked the Finance Minister if he still adhered to what he had stated a little ago.

Hon. Mr. Rose said every reasonable information required for the public interest should be given by the banks, and he desired his honourable friend to let the amendment stand over in order to arrange the terms in which it should be expressed.

Mr. Gibbs said he presumed if banks themselves did not object to giving this information the Finance Minister would not. He (Mr. Gibbs) was satisfied there was not a bank, except one, which would object, and he considered it was clearly for the interest of the public that the information should be given.

The amendment was then allowed to stand over.

The 8th clause having been read, some amendments were made on it by the Finance Minister so as to state that the whole amount authorized by the Act of the Province of Canada to be issued was eight millions, and not thirteen millions of dollars, as at first stated in the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Holton asked what amount of eight millions was available for arrangements with banks other than the Bank of Montreal.

Hon. Mr. Rose said he believed four and a half millions had already been issued, and three and a half remained available.

Hon. Mr. Anglin moved an amendment to the 8th clause, to strike out the words "and at