

another period. It depends altogether on the state of the market at the time the loan is placed on it whether the rate shall be three and a half, or four, hence the sarcasm of the hon. gentleman has no point, and even if the Finance Minister did effect a loan at $3\frac{1}{2}$ it would not be a "see-saw operation," as the hon. gentleman should know, if he does not.

M. MILLS. The first Minister informs us that the Finance Minister is absent and that this matter is very pressing. It is not a very great while ago that the First Minister told us that, with a High Commissioner in England, it would be unnecessary for the Finance Minister to go to the old country in order to effect loans, and transact other business. Now we have a High Commissioner in England drawing a handsome salary, and we have the Finance Minister absent from Parliament and we are doing work in an unparliamentary way in consequence of his absence.

Resolution to be reported.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 1:35 a.m., Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 11th June, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at half-past One o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PUBLIC DEBT OF CANADA.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, What was the net amount of the public debt of Canada on 31st May, 1885?

Mr. BOWELL. The net debt of Canada on 31st May, 1885, was \$191,886,199.60.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, What was the gross amount of the public debt of Canada on 31st May, 1885?

Mr. BOWELL. The gross amount of the public debt of Canada on 31st May, 1885, was \$258,711,088.52.

GOVERNMENT NOTES.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, What was the amount of Government notes in circulation or in the hands of Canadian banks on 31st May, 1885, and the amount of gold held by the Government of Canada upon that date?

Mr. BOWELL. The Government notes in circulation or in the hands of the Canadian banks amounted to \$14,998,315. The amount of specie held was \$2,287,767.

FLOATING AND UNFUNDED DEBT OF CANADA.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, What was the amount of the floating and unfunded debt of Canada on 31st, May 1885, and a list of temporary loans made by the Government, giving amounts, to whom payable and when payable?

Mr. BOWELL. The floating and unfunded debt of Canada on 31st, May 1885, was \$62,214,635.50. The House will remember that upon previous occasions, when similar questions were asked, it was thought advisable, in the interest of the Dominion and in accordance with the wishes of the banks, that such enquiries should not be answered.

Mr. CHARLTON. That merely applied to the rate of interest. The Finance Minister has himself given such statements.

Mr. BLAKE. We have had more than one such statement submitted by the Finance Minister.

GOVERNMENT LOANS.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, What sum or sums of money, of the loans negotiable by virtue of any Act of Parliament heretofore passed, authorising the Government of Canada, or the Governor in Council of Canada, to borrow money, remained unborrowed on 31st May 1885, without reference of transactions of the Finance Minister of Canada, since his recent arrival in London?

Mr. BOWELL. Four millions, eight hundred and ninety-five thousand, one hundred and eighty-one dollars and eighty-six cents.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, What was the amount of deposits in the post office savings bank of Canada on 30th, April 1885, subject to payment on demand; and also the amount of deposits subject to notice of withdrawal, on the same date?

Mr. BOWELL. The Post Office Department states that this information cannot be given for three or four days, because the books have not been finally balanced for the month of May. The approximate balance of deposits payable on notice of withdrawal was \$14,418,400. Outstanding cheques payable on demand amount to about \$8,000,000.

Mr. CHARLTON. What I asked for was a statement up to 30th April. I previously asked for the amount up to 30th May, but I was told that it could not be furnished, and I therefore changed the date.

Mr. BOWELL. The notice I have is up to 30th May.

Mr. CHARLTON. Perhaps the hon. Minister will furnish the information to-morrow.

Mr. BOWELL. Yes.

THE FIVE PER CENT. LOAN.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked, Whether any provision is made for the payment of a sinking fund upon the bonds to be given in exchange for the 5 per cent. loan which matures on the 1st of July next?

Mr. BOWELL. The sinking fund remains the same as at present, and there is no additional charge for stamps.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked, Whether any commission or allowance (other than the bonus of 1 per cent. offered to parties accepting the exchange) has been paid or agreed to be paid to any persons in connection with the exchange of 5 per cent. bonds for 4 per cents?

Mr. BOWELL. The only expenditure incurred other than the allowance of 1 per cent. is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to brokers bringing in outstanding parcels.

PROOFS OF ENTRIES IN BOOKS OF ACCOUNT.

Mr. CHAPLEAU moved the second reading of Bill (No. 113) respecting proof of entries in books of accounts kept by officers of the Crown. He said: I propose to amend the Bill slightly in committee, so as to make it read more clearly. The remark was made, the other day, that this legislation would interfere with the rights of the Provinces, by dealing with matters of civil rights and procedure. I propose, however, that the Bill shall be so worded as to apply only to matters over which the Parliament of Canada has authority, and with this safeguard I do not think there should be any objection to it, any more than there was to the Bill, 44 Vic., chap. 28, in which a similar provision is