

to his notes with regard to figures. His speech was not written, and if the hon. gentleman had seen notes of his speech it was more than he had himself.

MR. OUIMET said that hon. members might be of opinion that the credit of the bank had been fully vindicated by the declaration of the hon. member for Chateauguay, and he himself was of that opinion. The hon. members for Chateauguay and Montreal Centre must be in a much better position to speak on the subject than the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Taschereau) or other hon. members from Ontario, or from remoter places of this Dominion. He (Mr. Ouimet) was perfectly satisfied of the solvency of the bank, but in his humble opinion it might be of some interest to the members of this House to know how private parties could come before this House and use, for private purposes, the authority which statements made by hon. members in the House must have before the public.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman goes a little too far. He has made a charge against the hon. member for Montmagny of having been employed by outside parties to make charges here.

MR. OUIMET said he did not impute to the hon. member bad motives in bringing up this motion, but when an hon. member knew outside facts that might justify a certain way of thinking, he was justified in stating those facts, although not with the intention of charging the hon. member with bad motives. If he had imputed such motives to the hon. member he would at once apologize, in order to show that such an intention was never in his mind. He (Mr. Ouimet) repeated what he said, that, according to the knowledge he had of the transaction, the hon. member for Montmagny had been imposed upon by private parties outside of this House. He believed that insinuations brought before the House were sufficient to impugn the credit of the bank, and it was, therefore, necessary to put the public in possession of the facts of the case. According to his own knowledge the attack made from outside was only to

force the bank to come to a settlement with those people belonging to the Montreal City Passenger Railway.

MR. GIBBS (South Ontario) said that, while he agreed with the hon. members for Chateauguay and Montreal Centre as to the impropriety of discussing matters in reference to the bank so as to damage it in any way before the House, at the same time he could not but think the speech made by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Taschereau) was in the direction of injuring the bank, and it was necessary that some one should speak in reply, so far, at any rate, as that hon. gentleman had presented his case to the House. The remarks of the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Ouimet) were of a reassuring character. He had stated to this House that the bank did not fear any investigation; that the directors were quite willing to have its affairs examined by this House and exposed to the whole country; that its position was such as must commend it to the confidence of the country; that the parties who had taken the management in hand, and were stockholders of the bank, were parties of such reputed wealth that, although the bank might have suffered loss of capital, yet they would be able to repair by the infusion of new capital, any loss the bank might have suffered. So far as the speech of the hon. member for Laval went, it was in the right direction.

MR. CARTWRIGHT: I think it will be obvious to every hon. member of this House who will take the trouble to read the motion which my hon. friend for Montmagny (Mr. Taschereau) has moved, that to grant the various propositions which he makes would be to subject this bank to an inquisitorial investigation to which no bank has ever been subjected, and which would afford a most dangerous and mischievous precedent. I am bound to say I cannot recommend the House to grant more than a very few items contained in this motion, as, unfortunately, some degree of suspicion might attach in the minds of some persons as to the solvency of the bank. I may remark that, as far as it is possible to judge, the steps which were