

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I know it was opposed very strongly in the other House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: On the same ground as mentioned by my honourable friend?

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I am referring to the opposition to last year's Bill. I have not heard whether the present Bill was opposed in the other House.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Last year's Bill was opposed in the other Chamber.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: As I have already stated, it seems to me that this Bill must have been prepared by an office boy. It is absolutely unsound and unjust. I think that before many moons have passed it will be found that thousands of people have remembered the unfair taxation imposed by last year's legislation and by that of this year, if the present Bill passes.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: May I say that the discrepancy in the taxation does not appear to me to be so outrageous as my honourable friend has said. The explanation given by the honourable gentleman does not apply to paragraph (a) of section 58, as I understand it.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: That is right. But take paragraph (b).

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: All right. On the sale or transfer of every share of stock at a price of over \$150 per share the tax will be 5 cents. According to paragraph (c), on the sale or transfer of every share of stock at a price over \$75 per share but not more than \$150 per share, the tax will be 4 cents.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Yes.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Well, the proportion is kept up pretty well there.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: If you work it out you will get a different impression. The tax looks all right on the face of it.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: If you sell a share of stock valued at over \$150 you pay a tax of 5 cents; if you sell a share valued at over \$75, but not more than \$150, you pay 4 cents. It seems to me that the proportion is pretty well maintained. Paragraph (d) provides a tax of 3 cents for a share of stock sold or transferred at a price over \$50 per share, but not more than \$75 per share: again it seems to me that the proportion is pretty well maintained. I think the same thing is true with respect to paragraph (e), which provides a tax of 2 cents for every share of stock sold or transferred at a price over \$25 per share, but not over \$50 per share. If

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my honourable friend had confined his objections to the disproportion in the taxation on sales of stock coming within paragraph (b)—that is, stock valued at over \$150 per share, including shares valued at \$2,000 or \$3,000 each—I think he would perhaps have been on stronger ground; but his objections with regard to the other paragraphs are not well taken.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: What I have said applies to every one of them.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: I disagree with my honourable friend. On the sale of a share of stock valued at \$150 there is a tax of 4 cents, and on the sale of a share valued at \$75 the tax is 3 cents. The proportion of taxation is about the same in both instances. The same thing is true with regard to paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h). But, as I have said, I can see something in my honourable friend's argument when he points out that there is the same tax on the sale of a share of stock worth about \$150 as on one worth \$2,000.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I am sure my honourable friend is too astute a lawyer—

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: This is not a matter of law.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: No, it is a matter of mathematics. Anyone who makes a computation can see that the Bill makes possible very great discrepancies.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: You have shown it with regard to stock valued at over \$150 per share, but not with regard to other stock.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Would the honourable gentleman like me to explain the discrepancy between the taxes on any particular classes of shares?

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: I have gone into other paragraphs in the Bill, and I do not see that the taxes are at all out of proportion.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: This Bill is a wolf in sheep's clothing. My honourable friend is looking at the clothing and not at the wolf.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend cannot make a proper comparison by taking the minimum value of the shares provided for in each paragraph. For instance, a share valued at \$140 would be taxed 4 cents under paragraph (c), while on the sale of a share valued at \$151 the tax would be 5 cents, as provided by paragraph (b). In order to have a fair comparison my honourable friend should consider the average values rather than the minimum values as set out in the various paragraphs.