

March 3, 1871

matter before the House, and should demand a vote on his amendment. He further objected to the time proposed for the coming into operation of the measure, on the ground that throughout Nova Scotia all mercantile accounts were closed on the 1st January, and urged therefore that in order to have as little confusion and inconvenience as possible, the time should be the 1st of January. He concluded by asking that Nova Scotia should receive at the hands of the Government the same considerations that had been extended to it on former occasions, and that the measure would at least be postponed until another session.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** thought it was quite clear that the member for Kings was a young member of that House, or he would not have asked consideration for Nova Scotia on account of its small representation, for no one could question that the interests of Nova Scotia had ever been treated with the greatest consideration. The assimilation of the currency had been one of the advantages that was expected to result specially from Confederation, and it had simply been postponed hitherto on account of the representations of members from Nova Scotia, who, session after session, had urged that no change should take place while there was the least prospect of an international currency, but now that that prospect was so entirely done away with there could be no possible reason for further postponement. As far as New Brunswick was concerned, he did not hesitate to say that the prospect of this assimilation had been one of the strongest reasons for agreeing to Confederation, and he was confident that in a very short time after the change had been effected Nova Scotia would be as much pleased as any other portion of the Dominion. He detailed the many difficulties and the great inconvenience experienced throughout Nova Scotia in all matters of Customs and Excise, and in fact in every transaction between businessmen and any of the public offices.

As to the time at which the change should take place, he pointed out the great importance of its taking effect from the beginning of the financial year, the 1st July, as otherwise one half year of the Public Accounts would be under a different system to the other, and if the Finance Minister could be prepared to introduce a sufficient supply of the new silver coinage into Nova Scotia at the commencement of the act, he anticipated very little inconvenience. He instanced the great inconvenience and loss a merchant from Ontario or Quebec would sustain, if, after collecting accounts in Nova Scotia and returning home, he found the amount of notes he had received nominally correct, but in reality 3 or 4 per cent below their value from being payable at Halifax, and he could state positively that great loss had been experienced in New Brunswick in that way, and there could be no possible reason for allowing such a state of things to continue—notwithstanding the resolution of the Assembly of Nova Scotia that had been read, he knew that there existed a great division of opinion in that Province on the subject, and he read an extract from a letter from Mr. John R. Ryerson of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia urging the assimilation of the currency and urging also that that assimilation should come into effect as soon as possible. As to losses which it was anticipated might result on contracts entered into previous to the change, he mentioned that a gentleman in Nova Scotia, who was acknowledged to have devoted

more time and attention to the subject than any other in the province, Mr. Jack, had published an article some years previously, for the purpose of urging the Dominion to accept the currency of Nova Scotia, in which he shewed that though there might be unconvenience there need be neither gain nor loss. He read an extract from the article. He trusted not only that the principle of the measure would be accepted by the House, but that no postponement would take place in the date on which it was to take effect.

**Mr. McDONALD (Lunenburg)** when this question had been previously discussed he had considered it his duty to oppose it as unjust to Nova Scotia, so long as there was any possibility of an international currency, but from the moment that project ceased to be a possibility, he made up his mind that there was no further reason for opposing an assimilation of the currency of the Dominion. He had always regarded that assimilation as inevitable in one way or another, and while, as a Nova Scotian, regretting the inconvenience to which his Province would be subjected, he was compelled to admit that it would be unfair to subject the other three Provinces to the inconvenience of changing their currency to that of Nova Scotia, and he fully admitted that opinion was by no means unanimous on the question in Nova Scotia. As to the time, he thought it a matter open to discussion, but the assimilation he regarded as inevitable.

**Hon. Mr. HOWE** had listened with very great pleasure to the maiden speech of the member for Kings, and was only sorry that he had to oppose him, but the question was now before them in such a way that it could not be withstood, and with regard to one particular remark of the member for Kings he could not help saying that though the representatives of Nova Scotia were in a minority, they had invariably received the greatest consideration. The question had been staved off time after time in the hope of an international currency, but such a hope was now at an end, and as gentlemen he thought Nova Scotia members could not ask the majority of the House further to postpone the matter. He referred to the establishment of the present Nova Scotia currency by the present Chief Justice, Sir William Young, recalling how he (Hon. Mr. Howe) had urged, though in vain, that that currency should be the same as that in use on the remainder of the continent. He admitted that in their transactions with England, Nova Scotians found their currency most convenient, but maintained that in other transactions it was most inconvenient. He was sure ample provisions had been made to avoid all loss on dealings commenced before the change, and though inconvenience and even dissatisfaction might arise, the question would have to come sometime, and it might just as well come now.

**Mr. OLIVER** feared that when the English silver and the twenty cent pieces were withdrawn from circulation there would be a great scarcity of silver, and now that the banks were prohibited from issuing smaller notes than \$4, the small notes would naturally be withheld and consequently there would be a greater demand for silver, and he would press this matter on the attention of the Minister of Finance.