

Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to the amount of £150,000, circulate in Prince Edward Island. If this be so, or if the amount of notes in circulation approaches near to such a sum, it is evident that there is abundance of room for a banking establishment of large capital and great respectability, and the absence of which can only be attributed to the interference of the Government in banking matters and with the currency. Nor can there be any doubt that a Bank now starting with such an arrangement with the Government, that all the public business would be done through it, and based on such principles as would secure the confidence of the public, would immediately command the whole of the circulation. The notes now in circulation would gradually be paid into such a Bank as deposits of private persons, or as public revenue, while all the notes paid out would be their own, so that in a very short time the whole circulation of the Island would be the notes of such Bank convertible on demand; and therefore never in excess, but always proportioned to the demands and wants of the time. The Government would find its direct advantage in such a Bank by the favourable terms on which they would be prepared to redeem the notes now in circulation and to manage the public account in future, making such advances when necessary as the Government may require within legitimate bounds. To the commercial community such an establishment would be of indescribable advantage, not only in performing all the functions of banking in keeping deposits and in discounting bills, but also in furnishing the means of making remittances and conducting their foreign exchanges, the want of all of which they now feel so much, and for which they have only to blame the tampering of the Government with the circulation. To a young, prosperous, and enterprising community, the advantages and facilities which would thus be afforded by a sound system of currency and banking, would be of infinitely greater importance than any trifling and miserable temporary advantage or profit which could be derived from a further tampering with the circulation, only to end in further depreciation, or even try the establishment of a Government circulation on any principle however unsound.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES WILSON.

"New Brunswick.

"Message to the House of Assembly, 25th June, 1866.

"ARTHUR H. GORDON.

"His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor lays before the House of Assembly, copies of Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, concerning an Act passed in 1864 to amend the Law relating to Offences against the person."

A. H. G.

The Correspondence communicated by this Message was read at the Clerk's Table, and is as follows:—

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor.

Downing Street, 7th October, 1864.

SIR,—Among the Acts passed by the Legislature of New Brunswick in April last, and transmitted to me in the Despatch noted in the margin, is one entitled No. 2986, Cap. 4, "An Act further to amend the Law relating to offences against the person."

I have to request that you will point out to your Executive Council, that under the 6th Section of this Act a British subject committing bigamy in any part of the world is punishable as a felon in New Brunswick. This is evidently in excess of the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature, and therefore the words "or elsewhere," (lines 3 and 4 of Section 6,) should be expunged from the Section, and also the words "to any second marriage contracted out of this Province by any person not being a British subject."

Until these amendments have been made I shall be unable to submit the Act for Her Majesty's sanction.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD CARDWELL.