

resolutions in your hands to-day, I shall not press for action on them with undue haste, but shall allow ample time for their deliberate consideration by all the interests that may be affected by them.

In the first place—in order that the House may fully understand at once the importance and the difficulty of the question—let me point out what the different systems are that prevail in the various Provinces of this Dominion. I shall begin, first, with the Province of Nova Scotia—adverting only to those provisions of the charters under the existing system which directly affect the public interest or public safety, and not to those minor provisions which affect the interests of the shareholders, as among themselves. In the Province of Nova Scotia, there is one system in operation—in the Province of New Brunswick there is another—and in the old Province of Canada, there is a third. With regard to one main provision of the charters of the various Banks—that, namely, as to their circulation—in the Province of Nova Scotia, there is no special restriction with reference to the amount of the circulation, and no provision that the Banks should be required to keep a certain amount of specie to meet the circulation. There is simply a general provision that their total liabilities shall not exceed three times the amount of their capital and of the deposits they have in hand—the deposits being apparently considered, not as they actually are, a liability of the Banks, but a source on which they can rely for means to extend their circulation. This provision, which obtains in most of the Banking charters of Nova Scotia, is now asked at the hands of this House with reference to certain charters that are being sought for new Banks projected in that Province. In the Province of New Brunswick, the principal restriction, as regards the point to which I am now adverting is, that the total liabilities shall not exceed twice the amount of the capital—and one of the oldest and most respectable of the Banks of that Province is now asking at our hands an extension of its capital upon the basis of that provision, as contained in its original charter. Coming now to the late Province of Canada, we find the general provision is that the circulation shall not exceed the amount of the capital stock, *plus* the specie they have in their vaults, and *plus* the amount of Government securities they have in hand. Therefore, in Nova Scotia, the Banks may have a circulation of three times the amount of the capital, *plus* their deposits; in New Brunswick, twice the amount of capital; and in the old Province of Canada, a circulation equal to the amount of their capital, *plus* the amount they have in hand of specie and Government securities; and in none of the of the Provinces is there any provision requiring any amount of specie for purposes of redemption to be kept available.

MR. SPEAKER, the whole question of our Banking and currency is now forced upon the consideration of the Government and of this House by the position in which we find ourselves, in consequence of the various applications which are before us for renewals of the charters of Banks in the late Province of Canada which are about to expire; for charters for new Banks; for an extension of the capital of Banks; and for new chartered