

that we refer to the Board of Management in this Bill. But by referring to it we only recognize its existence under the Quebec Act; it gives it no power further than is conferred by this Bill. We are not re-enacting the Quebec Act, and it is by keeping that position clear in our minds that the House can have no difficulty in perceiving the fallacy which runs through the whole of my hon. friend's argument on this question. He says all the amendments to this Bill were voted down in Committee. They were voted down, and by large majorities, and I think a Committee of this House such as the Banking and Commerce Committee is quite competent to investigate a measure of this kind. Now, with regard to the other point raised by my hon. friend to the 4th section: He says under that section the Company will have power to charge and obtain a higher rate of interest than six per cent. That matter was fully discussed before the Committee. I do not agree with my hon. friend, for this reason. Suppose A mortgages to B, at seven per cent, and the Company buys that mortgage from the mortgagee, the mortgagee is then held as security for a loan from the original mortgagor to the Company.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER — It may be a purchase.

Hon. Mr. MILLER — Of course it will be purchased. I care not what you call the process by which it is acquired, but once acquired the money due on that mortgage is a loan due by the original mortgagor, and, as such, subject to all the rules of the Association and the provisions of this Bill. What does the 8th section say on that point?

"8. The Corporation may stipulate for, exact and take on all sums loaned, any rate of interest not exceeding six per centum per annum.

"When the loan is repayable by way of a sinking fund, the Corporation shall stipulate for, exact and take an annual sum for the gradual extinction of the loan, to be determined by the rate of interest and the duration of the loan, and may also stipulate for, exact and take a percentage or commission for cost of management not exceeding one per centum per annum on the principal loaned; but in such case such percentage or commission and the interest together must not exceed six

per centum per annum on the principal loaned."

Therefore, it is evident that under that 8th section on the principal loaned by this Company to any person they cannot charge more than six per cent., including commission and other expenses.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER — Suppose the bond or mortgage is at 8 per cent., do I understand from the hon. gentleman's argument that the individual who has to pay eight per cent. on that loan will have it reduced to six per cent. by the purchase of the mortgage by this Company?

Hon. Mr. MILLER — Yes, they cannot exact more than six per cent. The result would be the security would virtually be changed, because it would be contrary to the provisions of the Bill if they were in any way, by any subterfuge, to take over six per cent. It has been said by my hon. friend that the rate of interest in one of the provinces is seven per cent., and in others money can be got for six per cent. Although the rate of interest in the Province from which I come is seven per cent., it does not include the cost of conveyancing.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY — Neither does this.

Hon. Mr. MILLER — I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; this includes costs and commission of every kind. I know that there is no sympathy amongst capitalists for this Company. This Bill is for the benefit of the masses and not of those who have money to lend and who are accustomed to getting eight, ten and even twelve per cent. for it. It makes a very great difference when costs devolve also on the lender. Now, it was said that some portions of the Dominion desired not to have this Bill, but the exemption was refused them on the Committee. I was very glad that it was refused. We have heard such complaints from the Province of Nova Scotia and from other provinces, but I, for one, in the first place, do not approve of this partial legislation. I do not approve of drawing lines of this kind, especially in matters relating to trade and commerce between the different provinces. I think, on the contrary, we