

ber for Montmagny that he ought to wait until the papers were brought down before making these observations, because he was satisfied that no one would regret more than the hon. gentleman the consequences, if the effect of his speech should be to cause a run upon the bank to-morrow or the next day, which would prove very disastrous to those who had perhaps their all locked up in it at the present moment. He was bound to say that, while he believed there was good ground for an investigation into certain matters connected with this institution, a question which would no doubt receive the attention of the House when the House was placed in possession of information that would authorize it to investigate the management of it, he also held that they owed something to this institution and to those who were its depositors. It was a serious thing to charge an institution of this kind with gross mismanagement, because such a charge had a tendency to shake public confidence in its soundness. Speaking, therefore, in the interests—not of the directors or those who controlled the institution—but in the interests of the depositors, he would most earnestly ask his hon. friend to content himself with asking for the papers he desired, in the meantime. If this was agreed to, he (Mr. Devlin) could assure the hon. gentleman, that when these papers were brought down, he would discharge his humble part in the investigation, and use no effort to screen the directors if there was any evidence of wrongdoing on their part. But until that evidence was before the House, he thought nothing further should be said. Let it be borne in mind that they were dealing with a public institution in which were deposited the savings of thousands of the poor and industrial classes of Montreal. Nothing should be done which would have the effect of destroying their confidence in that institution or impair its credit, thus placing the savings of these people in jeopardy. He thought they would be doing wrong if they took such a course. All they wanted were the papers; these must be brought down, and brought down quickly, so that the House might have an opportunity of

dealing with this important question. He had to apologize for this interruption, but coming direct from the city of Montreal, he thought it his duty to bring this matter before the House because there was no hon. member upon whom the obligation rightly rested as upon himself. He was perhaps specially the representative of that large class of depositors who placed their money in that institution, and it would be clearly his duty to protect them if he found their interests were in danger.

Mr. TASCHEREAU said he was afraid that, in moving for so many returns, he must justify himself by relating to the House the facts which were now before the people of Montreal. He was merely stating what was the subject of general conversation, and what had been proved before the courts of justice in Montreal, quite recently. He had merely stated that the City and District Savings Bank of Montreal had forgotten its peculiar, distinctive policy, and he had called attention to the enormous losses the bank had incurred during the year 1876-7. If, however, the hon. member for Montreal Centre felt that it would not be desirable to make any remarks regarding the bank in the meantime, he would defer to his wishes and content himself with making the motion in the hands of Mr. Speaker.

Mr. OUMET said that, as one who had taken some interest in the matter, which he believed was a very important one, he wished to make a remark regarding it. For his own part, he had no objection to the papers asked for being submitted to the House and investigated by all the hon. gentlemen present, but he thought the hon. member for Montreal Centre should be thanked for having stopped the reading of the printed speech by the hon. member for Montmagny. That printed speech was not new to himself or to other hon. members of the House, or to a great many parties even in the city of Montreal.

Mr. TASCHEREAU : I stopped my remarks because the hon. member for Montreal Centre thought I should not go on with my speech now.

Mr. HOLTON said he wished to make a suggestion, which he thought