

tion; not one of them has touched for a moment the argument that I presented, which was the option being left in the hands of the holder whether to protest or not, the costs of the protest, if he does protest being exigible as before, and even the fees as heretofore established being still preserved, wherein can the notarial profession suffer, except in the remote case which, as I have said, would be about one in 100? In ninety-nine out of 100 cases the fee would still be collected. The argument of the hon. gentleman from Delandaudière, if it was good for anything at all, was in favor of the adoption of this system for the whole Dominion. That was the logical result of his argument which was, that notarial protest did away with chances of perjury and other disagreeable and objectionable matters. If that is good for anything at all, it means that the Province of Quebec is not to be made an exception in the possession of this good thing, but that it should be applicable to the whole Dominion. Any one holding that opinion should move that the practice of the Province of Quebec be made applicable to the whole Dominion, and I should expect every honorable man throughout the whole Dominion to hail that.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—Then make the change.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—I have no objection.

HON. MR. POWER—I have a strong objection.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—If this Bill is amended as I propose, the banks will pursue exactly the same course as they do now for their own protection. I do not believe that it will affect the number of protests to the extent of more than one in 100, but that one in 100 may be an exceptional case of hardship to which I object, as a commercial man, to have anyone subjected. It may be that there are special cases in which the holder of a Bill replies to all applications to him as to the propriety of remitting the protest in that case, that he is obliged to do it, that if he fails to protest he loses his recourse against the drawer. In all parts of the Dominion, except Quebec, if he elects not to protest he does not lose his recourse against the maker or endorser, and then all hardship

on the part of the maker or endorser is got over by clause 48 which requires absolutely that notice be sent to the drawer and each endorser if the bill is either not paid or not accepted, which covers all objections to the omission of the notarial protest.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—The hon. gentleman says that he has no such view as wishing to injure the notaries of our Province. I will show him that that will be the effect of his amendment. His view is that all the laws should be assimilated: in that case, we would have to dispense with our notaries in Quebec, because in other parts of the Dominion there are no notaries. We would have no work for our notaries and would have to get rid of them. The hon. gentleman does not propose exactly that, but he is taking the first step towards that end. We cannot accept those arguments. They are not in the public interest, and I believe that there has been enough of that sort of work done already. I hope in this instance the House will support our view that the Bill as it stands is in a satisfactory shape.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—I have not had the advantage of hearing all that has been said with reference to this Bill, but it appears to me that as it is intended to make the laws on this subject throughout the Dominion uniform, there is no reason why any Province should be excepted from the general law, more especially as I understand that the notaries are not likely to be sufferers by reason of producing this uniformity.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I find sometimes the comments which my hon. friends who live under the common law, make upon the laws of Lower Canada, somewhat amusing, and not very reasonable. The doctrine which my hon. friends lay down now is that the law with regard to the protest of promissory notes and bills ought to be uniform. My hon. friend from Lunenburg goes so far as to say that there is a sacred principle in all commercial law, that it must be uniform everywhere.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—It ought to be.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend is not aware that there are dozen of contracts which require to be protested in the Province of Quebec, commercial contracts,