

Mr. Ross (Prince Edward) was glad that the Government had taken up the matter. At present farmers and traders were made to suffer for the benefit of brokers, and he knew mercantile houses in Upper Canada which were in this way losing \$5,000 yearly. He would accord his cheerful support to the measure—the best introduced this session.

Mr. Walsh referred to a previous proposal made by himself to fix a legal value of 80 cents for the dollar, which he explained would not occasion loss to the holders, who could always export to New York for par value. A similar arrangement had been found to work well in New Brunswick.

Mr. Metcalfe looked upon the proposal as the most extraordinary that had ever been heard of. It would certainly be a nuisance and an injustice to be compelled to take any article for a value greater than its due, but such transactions were altogether voluntary and optional, and if it were true that any bankers constrained their customers to take a portion of their discounts in silver, it could only have reference to the conduct of the managers of the great shaving establishment of Montreal.

Mr. McConkey should have desired to see the matter postponed until the Banks and Boards of Trade were able to express an opinion, and thought that the Government should fix some determinate legal tender value.

Mr. Gibbs regarded eight per cent as a rate more advisable than fifteen, and thought the quarter dollar might with advantage be made worth twenty-three cents. The effect of this discussion going abroad would be to prepare the country for the change which was to come. It was nonsense to talk of silver being forced upon the community—in his neighbourhood at least, where the farmers possessed sufficient intelligence to understand perfectly what they were about.

Mr. Bodwell said that the reference of the Hon. Minister of Militia to the injustice of the present state of things towards the poor was a good reason for the introduction of a Bill, which he himself intended to propose, to regulate the whole difficulty. He asked whether the Government's attention had been sharpened by recent losses from municipal receipts of silver in Lower Canada. He could not understand why municipalities of Ontario should not also be permitted to make their payments in silver if such a power had, as the public accounts led him to believe, been

extended to Quebec. He thought that a prohibition of silver would compel the introduction of American gold.

Mr. Currier was amazed at the proposal, not being able to see why, upon the same ground, an eight per cent duty should not be placed on gold. We had actually too small an amount of circulation.

Mr. Ross (Dundas) said that it was impossible to settle the question by any such imposition of duty, as silver could be brought in, in any quantity, over the frontier in defiance of the Government prohibition. He hoped that if Ministers were determined to press the measure, they would amend it by a reduction of the rate to four or five percent, by which the intrinsic value of the coin would be reached.

Hon. Mr. Dunkin could not understand how it mattered what rate of duty was imposed, the object being not revenue, but exclusion.

Dr. Parker thought the subject should be postponed, believing that the best way of dealing with it was to make such silver a legal tender at fixed value. The present proposal of exclusion would, if carried, be magnified across the border into an attempt at annoyance to the people of the United States.

Mr. Bodwell thought that the sooner we ceased to express fears of offending the United States in legislating for our own advantage the better. (Hear, hear.) We had heard so much of this sort of talk lately, that the Americans would begin to imagine that we could not get on without them.

Dr. Parker considered his remarks as perfectly justifiable, and disclaiming any more undue sympathy with or fear of the United States ridiculed the extravagant exaltation of the loyal frenzy, which would not permit us to speak without taking off our hats, and hooraying about our institutions as in no way tending to impress spectators with much respect for our dignity. He thought that it would be desirable to learn to use such language on grave international questions as was to be heard in England, where the great leaders, both of the Conservative and Whig parties were accustomed to express themselves in a strain which were it used by him, would be branded as betraying annexationist principles.

Mr. Bellerose (in French) briefly supported the resolution.