

a footing in opposition to such a powerful institution as the Bank of Upper Canada. And here he appealed once more to the inexorable laws of human nature, whose workings, he had claimed, must cause merchant directors to crush merchant customers as in the operations of the Bank of Montreal. This spectral forecast was afterwards of much benefit to the critics of the Bank of Upper Canada.

Mr. Bidwell, in a very temperate speech admitted the stability and good management of the Bank of Upper Canada, but dwelt on the dangers to the liberty of the country in the monopoly of that institution and the beneficial check which a rival bank would impose upon it. Personally he would like to see the Scotch system of banking introduced into Canada, with greater responsibility on the part of the stockholders. But, as a different system had been introduced here, he would support the present bill.

Solicitor General Hagerman, replying to a second outburst on the part of the Attorney General, referred to the experience of other countries, especially England, Scotland and the United States, to show that merchants might very well manage banks, and that it was a very important part of the function of banks to assist merchants in their trade, and not merely farmers, as the Attorney General had maintained.

Mr. McKenzie brought up to the House a wheel-barrow load of documents, and obliterated all landmarks in a deluge of talk for six hours. He opposed the bill, or at best called for its amendment, not, as may be imagined, in the interest of the Bank of Upper Canada, but because it was fashioned too closely in the image of that institution. When the vote was taken Mr. Boulton found that almost his only supporters were his dearest enemies, the ultra radicals. He had more consistent backing elsewhere however.

Though a number of the wiser heads in the Legislative Council, especially the Hon. Mr. Markland and the Hon. Dr. Strachan, recognized that more was to be lost than gained in opposing the convictions of the moderate party in the country, yet the majority of the Council, always more distinguished for courage than for wisdom, were determined to maintain the monopoly of the Bank of Upper Canada. As a result the bill was lost, but it was recognized by many who had anything but love for the radicals, that they were the chief gainers by the outcome.