

knaves looking out for speculation. Many thinking, as the specie was gone, the Bank had no other resources. They had no notion of the debts due it for notes discounted, and were eager to pass or sell Bills at a discount, which they had in possession, believing the Directors had issued the bills of the institution for their own benefit, for the very purpose of defrauding the public. They knew the situation of most of the Directors did not warrant them to have such large sums upon each other's responsibility, many of them being mere men of straw, not much better than Dalton. Dalton and Bartlet endorsed for each other, and the money was not forthcoming: it was the same with other Directors: they had notes discounted, and renewed them from time to time, instead of paying them. The Bank failing, deranged the unfair and partial mode of loaning each other money at the expense of the community. Dalton owed nearly £4000, besides a large amount he received from discounts, as presenter, he being the endorser. Mr. Bartlet gave a bond for £4500. These two Directors had applied to their own use money about equal to the Stock paid in. Many other Directors had been pulling away at an unconscionable rate, but more moderately than Dalton and Bartlet; however, both of them came forward and said they were not able without deranging their business, to pay their notes in due season, when an arrangement was made securing their debts by mortgage paying £125 quarterly with interest, with a clause to pay the same in Kingston Bills. The Bonds make no mention whether the Bills are to be taken at the full price of them, or at the rate they were passing. At the time of this arrangement the Bills were at £15 per cent. discount, and it had an effect to increase the discount, since people considered the years it would take to pay those debts, and it was reported other directors had equally favorable chances to pay their debts, together with the pamphlets issued by the parties criminating each other with mal-practices, that it was impossible to discover the situation of the institution from the contradictory statements of the directors and officers. The Stockholders were bewildered, and joined in with a party as chance guided them. The business was placed in the hands of Mr. Robert Stanton, as Agent, and there is no doubt but the Bills would have been redeemed at par, and the Stockholders paid their amount of Stock, had not the Legislature interfered by passing an act appointing Messrs. George H. Markland, John Kirby, and John Macaulay, Commissioners.

The following is a preamble to the act passed March 19, 1823:

"And whereas the said association have stopped payment and declared itself insolvent, whereby a great portion of the inhabitants of this province, holding their said bills or notes, and who have taken stock in the said bank, as well as others, have been defrauded of the same, and are likely to be without redress, unless some legislative remedy should be provided for their relief."

The loss to the Bill and certain Stockholders, was caused by the following acts of commissioners:—Markland, Kirby and Macaulay