it the duty of Parliament to interfere whenever the rule had been transgressed, imperilling the savings of the poor. The City and District Savings Bank of Montreal was, he was happy to say, from the date of its foundation to the date of its re-organization in 1871, a well managed and deservedly prosperous institution. Its directorate was composed of the best elements that could be secured. Prudence and shrewdness were the distinctive qualities of its members. During this period, which embraced fifteen years, an uninterrupted series of fortunate and prosperous transactions were the result of the wise policy followed, which excluded all tendency to speculation. In 1871. the Directors, in accordance with the terms of Sec. 6 of the Ontario and Quebec Savings Bank Act, resolved to transfer the assets of the bank to the Government, as they then stood, and to continue the business of the bank under a new charter. The manner in which the stock was subscribed, as indicated by the charter, was at the time strongly commented upon, and had since been the subject of many recriminations. It was done contrary to the established rules of sound banking; it was really of very doubtful security to the depositors, and it inflicted a severe blow upon the public confidence in the institution. Ten per cent. of the voluntarily subscribed capital of two millions was then paid in, and to this day the profits yielded by the bank, reaching four or five per cent., paid in each year to the poor had increased, and the deposits had exceeded the amount of stock subscribed by the above-mentioned directors. A more equivocal transaction could scarcely be imagined, and it had been, he was sorry to say, very severely criticised by the people of Montreal. It was not his intention to dwell at length on this phase of the existence of the bank; but, it stood to reason, he believed, that in thus appropriating to themselves the good will of the bank, and, as was currently stated, a large portion of its accumulated profits, under the cover of its charter, the above-mentioned directors not only failed to carry out the object of its founders and first patrons, but also acted in violation of all established fiscal rules. If the poor who came there to deposit their hard-earned savings were not legitimately entitled to all the profits accruing to the bank, either with regard to the charitable institutions of Montreal or themselves as depositors, the revenue of the country should, at least, have benefitted by it. The establishment of the bank, or the principle upon which the above-mentioned clause of the law was based, was a direct spoliation of the public revenue; and the institution itself changed its character, becoming a private banking house, and ceasing any longer to be a savings bank. This was only one of the many incidental features attending the reorganization of this bank. Encouraged by immunity, and having, by the bold attempt, successfully made, secured the good will, and, as he had already said, as was currently reported, a large portion of the accumulated profits, which resulted from many years of safe management, increased by the unprecedented profits and dividends that resulted from careful administration, the new Board of Directors launched into a highly speculative policy, and effected loans on inflated and, in many cases, dangerous security.

MR. MASSON: Does the hon. gentleman wish to have these papers brought down, or does he desire, before this is done, to decry the credit of one of our banking institutions?

MR. TASCHEREAU: I am only explaining why I make this motion, and I am perfectly in order in doing so.

MR. MASSON: This is a downright shame.

MR. TASCHEREAU said that American stocks were freely taken by the bank as collateral securities; syndicates or cliques were encouraged, and the Directors encouraged this policy, which ensured large profits at great risk to the bank.

MR. DEVLIN said that, as the representative of Montreal Centre, and as one who was closely identified with a very large number of the depositors in this institution, he respectively submitted to the House and the hon. mem-