

It is not as if by this Bill we say, "You shall not protest bills;" it merely gives the privilege to one out of the hundred, who, under peculiar circumstances, may see fit to hold an acceptance or a bill for a few days for reasons quite satisfactory to a mercantile man. Why should he not have that privilege? It does not interfere in the least degree with the rights and privileges that have been enjoyed hitherto by notaries in the Province of Quebec, and I cannot see why there should be such determined opposition to it. Moreover, if it is good that this system should prevail in Quebec, then let us have it throughout the Dominion. We do not want any excellence in the law that we are not to be made partakers of also; but, when I see clearly and distinctly that this amendment will not interfere with the way they have carried on business for a century in Quebec, I cannot see what objection there is to it. There cannot be any doubt in the mind of any man conversant with business transactions that in 99 cases out of a 100 bills will be protested, and surely the House will not say that the 100th man, if for particular reasons he wishes to save the expense of protest, should not have the right to do it.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I do not see the force of the argument of the hon. gentleman from Sarnia, or of the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg. These hon. gentlemen state that it is necessary that the laws on this particular subject in every Province should be the same, but if they give an example where the laws of Quebec have done any mischief in any other Province I should understand it. Have they cited any case where a notarial protest in the Province of Quebec has done any injury in another Province? Then, when for twenty years past the law of Quebec has proved to have been a good law, why introduce this amendment? Why abolish the exception in favor of Quebec and oblige the people of that Province to learn a new system when they are so well accustomed to their old law? These two hon. gentlemen ought to know that in the Province of Quebec we have a right to our own civil laws, so in that respect you cannot assimilate the laws of the Provinces. Then, if you cannot assimilate them there, why assimilate them on subjects which up to this time have worked so admirably? If

you change the law in the present instance you ought to show that it will be an improvement because before amending a law you must show that there is some advantage to be gained by it. We have been legislating for twenty years, these gentlemen have voted for all the laws that were passed here. They have voted for the laws for our judiciary. Are these laws uniform throughout the Dominion? They are not, and why did they not take exception to them? Did they not vote three or four years ago for an electoral franchise? And in that bill there were exceptions in favor of the smaller Provinces. Those exceptions were not for Quebec, but they voted for that bill with the exceptions, finding it impossible to make the law uniform. For these reasons I hope the Committee will leave the clause as it stands, as it is the law to which we are accustomed.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—My hon. friend does not seem to understand the difference in this law from other laws. Commercial law should be universal, and it is deplorable to think that there should be an exception to a principle which should be general everywhere. If it is optional to protest in every other Province of the Dominion why should Quebec be compelled to treat a note differently in order to collect it? It is deplorable to have such a difference in commercial law in the several Provinces, and I must support the amendment of my hon. friend.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—I am very much surprised at the heat with which this proposition has been received. I said in my remarks at the beginning that in my opinion it would not alter the practice except in unusual cases, and that in 99 out of 100 cases the practice would remain as it is now. How anyone could be supposed to be inimical to the notarial profession of the Province of Quebec who holds that opinion passes me altogether. With reference to the Montreal Board of Trade, I am not aware what has been their action. My hon. friend spoke about them wishing to abolish the notarial profession in the Province of Quebec. I do not know of anything of that kind. For my own part, I disclaim emphatically any desire or intention to injure the notarial profession of Quebec, a class for whom I have the greatest respect. Some legal members of the Senate have spoken on this ques-