

April 27, 1874

Provinces the laws relating to usury, which were continuously evaded.

He explained that in the Province of New Brunswick private persons were allowed to charge only six per cent on money, while the banks charged seven per cent. He could not understand why dealing in money should not be free the same as other articles, and, this being his view he had introduced this measure.

Hon. Mr. DORION said if the hon. gentleman had proposed to make the law of New Brunswick the same as that of the rest of Canada his bill might not have been opposed. By the law which the hon. gentleman desired to pass, there would be no restriction throughout Canada on the rate of interest to be exacted. He was not disposed to open the gate and let people lend money at such rates, and therefore should oppose this measure. He added that the societies which now existed for loan purposes were perfectly satisfied with the rates they now received.

Mr. PALMER said he would make the money trade entirely a matter of bargain. He would be willing to accept amendments in Committee.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the notion that every sale of commodities should be perfectly free met with his sympathy. It would be inconvenient to re-open the question as far as Ontario and Quebec are concerned. The best way might be to apply the Bill to those portions of the Dominion which now suffered from restrictions.

Mr. PALMER had no objection.

Hon. Mr. DORION said if he would assimilate the law of New Brunswick to that of Ontario and Quebec, he would find every purpose answered.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL suggested that the bill be read a second time, and have it amended in accordance with the views of the Ministry when it passed through Committee.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON was persuaded, in view of the discussions in the past, that the member for St. John (Mr. Palmer) could not go further than assimilate the law of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with those of Ontario and Quebec. If he would confine himself to this he would have with him a majority of the House. He suggested that the hon. gentleman introduce a Bill to that effect.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said if the hon. gentleman would withdraw his bill and introduce a measure in the manner he had indicated he would have every facility afforded to him.

Mr. WILKES agreed with the remarks of the hon. members for Châteauguay (Hon. Mr. Holton) and Lambton (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) but he assured the House that the Usury Law was an anomalous one, and did not give general satisfaction. He trusted that before long a measure might be introduced to amend the whole system. He thought the whole question should be considered by Ministers.

Mr. GOUDGE hoped this Bill would be withdrawn. The present law was working admirably.

Mr. FORBES said the people in Nova Scotia were quite satisfied with the present law.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria) hoped the hon. gentleman would leave Nova Scotia affairs in the hands of Nova Scotia members.

The order was then discharged, and the file withdrawn.

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GREENVIEW POST OFFICE

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) submitted the correspondence and papers in connection with the Greenview Post Office, in the County of Hastings.

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SALT INSPECTION

On motion of **Mr. CAMERON (Huron South)**,

The House went into Committee on the resolution declaring it expedient to provide for the inspection of salt manufactured in Canada, and for the appointment of Salt Inspectors, **Mr. FORBES** in the chair.

The resolution was adopted and reported. The report was received, and the resolution was read a first and second time.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron South) then introduced a Bill founded on the resolution, which was read a first time.

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BUSINESS FOR TUESDAY

In reply to Hon. Mr. Tupper,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the business of tomorrow would be the Election Bill, probably the Estimates, and possibly an opportunity would be afforded him of making that speech of his on the tariff question.

The House adjourned at 11.55 p.m.

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NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. DYMOND—On Wednesday next—To move that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General on the subject of the Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Act respecting copyrights” passed by the two Houses of the Parliament of Canada in the session of 1872, and reserved for the signification of Her Majesty’s pleasure on the 14th day of June of that year.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—That he will on Wednesday next, move for leave to bring in a Bill entitled “An Act declaring the Canada Southern Railway to be a work for the general advantage of Canada, within the meaning of Section 92 of the British North America Act of 1867”.