

CANADA LOAN AND SAVINGS
COMPANY BILL.

SECOND READING POSTPONED.

HON. MR. GOWAN moved the second reading of Bill (I) "An Act to enable the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Company to extend their business, and for other purposes."

He said:—This Bill is to enable the Company to have more than one register of transfers of stock, and to do business in any other province.

HON. MR. WARK—I think that before this Bill passes, representatives from the Maritime Provinces ought to have an opportunity of looking into it. It is establishing a precedent which may be followed up by extending the powers of all those societies now existing in Ontario and Quebec to the Maritime Provinces. I would like to know that there is some proof that those institutions are really doing good to the country. I have a few figures here which are well worth consideration. There are 72 of those societies in the Province of Ontario, and 18 in Quebec, making 90 altogether. The people of Ontario now owe the institutions altogether nearly \$80,000,000. Those loans are, very few of them, at a lower rate of interest than 6½ per cent., and some of them are as high as 12 per cent. The property encumbered by those loans is valued at \$170,000,000. We ought to look at the burden imposed upon the farmers, chiefly of Ontario, which cannot be less than \$6,000,000 a year. It is equal to all the live stock that they export. I have the figures here. It is more than equal to all the flour and wheat that they export. I have strong doubts, therefore, as to whether it is really for the advantage of the Maritime Provinces to allow those institutions to come down there and lend money on the terms they are lending it at in Ontario. Our country is too poor to bear such burdens; therefore I think the members from the Maritime Provinces should look into this question and see if we want such institutions and consider whether we are to be benefited by their introduction, for if we establish a precedent now, we

must follow it up and allow the whole of those societies to come down and carry on business in the Maritime Provinces.

HON. MR. GOWAN—I can only speak for this company. The Bill was put into my hands not long ago, and speaking for this company I believe it to be the largest, and most substantial company in the country, one that is giving universal satisfaction wherever they have done business, and the large rate of interest that my hon. friend speaks of is to them a thing unknown. They go at the request of the people to other provinces, and they are pleased to open up business there and if the people do not choose to do business with them they are not compelled to. The same legislation has been allowed to other companies and I really cannot see any objection to this. I hope my hon. friend will at least allow it to go to the Banking Committee, and any substantial objection which can be raised will be met there.

HON. MR. DICKEY—I think the House is indebted to the hon. member who has called attention to this Bill, and I think the persons here representing the Maritime Provinces will sympathize with the reasons which he has given for calling attention to it. The difficulty we are in at the present moment is, that the Bill is not printed in such a form that we can examine it for a second reading. It has not been distributed. I have made application myself, personally for it and have sent to the proper place two or three times and could not get a copy. The Bill is therefore not in a position to be now considered; but if it were so, it appears to me that it is open to very serious objection. We are now in the 20th year of Confederation, and these institutions, those quasi banks have been operating in the older provinces; but so far as I know no expression has been heard of any need of them in the Maritime Provinces. It is legislation in the interest of persons in the Upper Provinces who seek to come down and introduce this system of making money in the Lower Provinces, and I think the interest of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick ought to be considered in that respect, and some attention ought to be