

express orders we were met by the objection that certain institutions would continue to pay these express orders no matter what arrangement was made by the other institutions.

MR. PLUMMER—Do you refer to the banks that have express companies' accounts?

THE PRESIDENT—I refer to the banks that have the accounts of the express companies.

MR. PLUMMER—Is there any reason why they should not continue, while the rest of us drop out.

THE PRESIDENT—Yes. If you have a large dry goods account, we will say, and another bank, a branch of the bank which has an account with the express company, has a share of that account or has a rival account, and your customer is receiving express orders in large quantities from his different customers, and is charged by his banker upon them, and his rival in the trade, or he himself, in his account with the other bank, is able to have these orders cashed for nothing, your customer in your bank is constantly at a disadvantage as compared with the customer of the other bank and as compared with his own treatment by the express company's bank. It is not a question for the bank to consider in its dealings with the express companies, but it is a question between the bank and its own customer, in placing that customer at a disadvantage. The first thing your bank will know, with the competition going on to-day, your customer is out of the office and is issuing cheques on the other bank; and you have lost a good account.

MR. YOUNG—That surely could be arranged to be met in a matter of exchange between the banks; the customer of the bank where the account of the express company is kept would have an advantage; but it seems to me that difficulty might be met in this way, that his orders would pass at par as between the banks, but not over the counter.

MR. PLUMMER—I think what Mr. Young says meets the point; he is really only urging the rule we all follow, that is, if there are any items which are redeemable locally we do not make any charge, it makes no difference whether they are money orders or cheques. It would be absurd for us to say here that although a certain bank clears certain express orders through the Toronto Clearing House, we would not take them at par; they are, for practical purposes, cheques drawn on a particular bank.

THE PRESIDENT—That is all right in Toronto; but take the case of, say, a Merchants Bank customer at Ingersoll, and I would ask you if the Merchants Bank is going to charge them