

of different members, as there was no use in placing the same gentlemen on both committees when they could only serve on one. The Committee on Printing should also have separate members from the others, as it sat on the same days as the Committees on Private Bills and Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS agreed with the hon. gentleman that the Maritime Provinces should be more largely represented than they were. He suggested that the hon. Mr. Northup should be added to the Committee, as he came from Nova Scotia, and was largely connected with the financial institutions of that Province.

Hon. Mr. BOTSFORD suggested that in future more consideration should be given to the composition of the important Committees mentioned. Members of one committee should not be members of another committee sitting on the same day. He had intended, when the hon. Secretary of State moved the committees, to call his attention to the great number of members composing the Committee on Banking and Commerce, who resided in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Hear, Hear !

Hon. Mr. BOTSFORD said he did not doubt at all the capacity or ability of the hon. gentlemen from Ontario ; he had no doubt they possessed greater experience in the conducting of banks in Ontario than they had in the Maritime Provinces. However, banks were established in the various Provinces, and it was legislation in which each part of the Dominion was equally interested, and the Maritime Provinces should be represented on that committee in fair proportion.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said the statements of his hon. friend (Mr. Botsford) should carry great weight, but he thought there were other interests in this country that were concerned in this kind of legislation as well as the bankers themselves. He thought the whole public, and all branches of industry were interested in the system of banking that should be carried on.

Hon. Mr. WARK—And commerce ?

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—Yes, and commerce as well. He generally, found no matter what side of politics hon. gentlemen connected with banks were on, when banking was concerned they coalesced and

*Hon. Mr. Wark.*

looked with a single eye to the interests of those institutions.

Hon. Gentlemen—Hear, Hear.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—Yes, it becomes a ring at once.

Hon. Gentlemen—Hear, Hear.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said he believed that banking should be free. It was a great monopoly as it was at present, and he, for one, wished to limit that monopoly if he could. He considered the committee was too large, and that the Maritime Provinces had not a fair representation on it.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said he had suggested the addition of Mr. Northup to it.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said he did not object to any of the hon. gentlemen on the committee all he wanted was to see fair play.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY said he entirely concurred in the statement as to the unwieldy size of the committee, and that those gentlemen were looking after their own interests. The reason why the representation of Ontario was disproportionately large on the committee could be seen by glancing over the Bills which went before it. It would be found that nine-tenths of them were from that Province. He agreed that the committee ought to be reduced, but whether it should be the lot of the hon. Secretary of State to do that next year, or whether it should be a member of some other Government, would be a matter for history.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear, Hear.

Hon. Mr. MILLER said there was one view of this case that had been completely overlooked by the hon. gentlemen who had discussed it. He was not sure that by any complexion they might give the committee they could weaken the influence of the bankers, because they possessed a controlling influence in this House, and whenever they put their heads together, as they invariably did, no matter what side of politics they were on.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—Hear, Hear.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—When they put their heads together you see my hon. friend from Toronto on this side, and my hon. friend from Toronto on the other side “shake hands over the bloody chasm” and join in protecting the interests of the banks.