

by presenting the bill for acceptance before presenting it for payment is excused, and does not discharge the drawer and endorsers

"Presentment in accordance with these rules is excused, and a bill may be treated as dishonored by non-acceptance, where the drawee is dead or bankrupt or insolvent, or is a fictitious person, or a person not having capacity to contract by bill; or where, after the exercise of reasonable diligence, such presentment cannot be effected; or where, although the presentment has been irregular, acceptance has been refused on some other ground."

There is a further provision that:

"Where a qualified acceptance is taken, and the drawer or an endorser has not explicitly or impliedly authorised the holder to take a qualified acceptance, or does not subsequently assent thereto, such drawer or endorser is discharged from his liability on the bill. The provisions of this sub-section do not apply to a partial acceptance whereof due notice has been given. Where a foreign bill has been accepted as to part, it must be protested as to the balance. When the drawer or endorser of a bill receives notice of a qualified acceptance and does not within a reasonable time express his dissent to the holder, he shall be deemed to have assented thereto."

There are also the following provisions:—

"The return of a dishonored bill to the drawer or an endorser is, in point of form, deemed a sufficient notice of dishonor.

"When the acceptor of a bill is or becomes the holder of it, at or after its maturity, in his own right, the bill is discharged.

"When the holder of a bill, at or after its maturity, absolutely or unconditionally renounces his rights against the acceptor, the bill is discharged. The renunciation must be in writing unless the bill is delivered up to the acceptor.

"Where a bill or acceptance is materially altered without the assent of all parties liable on the bill, the bill is avoided except as against a party who has himself made, authorised or assented to the alteration, and subsequent endorsers; provided that, where a bill has been materially altered, but the alteration is not apparent, and the bill is in the hands of a holder in due course, such holder may avail himself of the bill as if it had not been altered, and may enforce payment of it according to its original tenor.

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, where a cheque is not presented for payment within a reasonable time of its issue, and the drawer or the person on whose account it is drawn had the right at the time of such presentment, as between him and the banker, to have the cheque paid, and suffers actual damage through the delay, he is discharged to the extent of such damage, that is to say, to the extent to which such drawer or person is a creditor of such banker to a larger amount than he would have been had such cheque been paid.

"Where, by this Act, any instrument or writing is required to be signed by any person, it is not necessary that he should sign it with his own hand, but it is sufficient if his signature is written thereon by some other person by or under his authority."

And in the case of a corporation it is provided that it is sufficient if the instrument is sealed with the corporate seal, but it is not required that the seal of the corporation should be affixed. It is further provided that:

"Where a bill or note is required to be protested within a specified time or before some further proceeding is taken, it is sufficient that the Bill has been noted for protest before the expiration of the specified time, or the taking of the proceeding; and the formal protest may be extended at any time thereafter as of the date of the noting. Where a dishonored bill or note is authorised or required to be protested, and the services of a notary cannot be obtained at the place where the bill is dishonored, any justice of the peace, resident of the place, may present and protest such bill or note and give all necessary notices, having all the necessary powers of a notary in respect thereto."

It is also provided that this Act shall not come into force until the 1st September next, in order that its provisions may be fully known by time being given for the publication of the statute, as well as for the information which will at once be desired as to the changes in the present law. These are the changes which it is proposed to make in the law. Some of them, as the House will have observed, are either declaratory of the common law, or partially so, or they ratify the practice of the mercantile community in respect to these matters. One of the changes which it is necessary to make in the direction of uniformity is in relation to the Province of Quebec, and this Bill will require a protest in the case of foreign bills only, making the Quebec law uniform with that of the other Provinces. I may further observe that the Bill proposes to establish in Canada the English provisions in respect to crossed cheques.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

## WRECKING AND COASTING PRIVILEGES TO UNITED STATES VESSELS.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 7) to admit United States vessels to wrecking, towing and coasting privileges in Canadian waters. He said: In the first clause of the Bill, provision is made for vessels belonging to the United States of America being allowed to assist vessels wrecked or disabled in Canadian waters. In the second clause, it is provided that vessels belonging to the United States of America may tow vessels belonging to the United States from one port to another as well as vessels of any other nationality. The third clause provides that vessels belonging to the United States of America may enjoy the privileges of the coasting trade of Canada, by coasting from one port to another, subject only to the same regulations as Canadian vessels are subject to. The fourth clause provides that the Act shall go into effect when the Government of the United States have passed a similar law giving like privileges to the vessels of Canada in the waters of the United States.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

## VOTERS' LISTS.

Mr. EDGAR asked, 1. Has the Government caused to be printed the lists of voters as revised in 1886? 2. What numbers of such lists have been struck off, or are to be struck off, for each electoral district? 3. What number of such lists will be sent to each revising officer, and when? 4. Are such lists to be supplied to any other persons than revising officers; or have they been supplied to, or obtained by any other persons? 5. If it be permitted to any person, other than revising officers, to obtain copies of such lists, to whom should application be made for them; and is the price thereof to be regulated by analogy to the prices under section seventeen of the Franchise Act, or what price is fixed? 6. What number of copies of the lists as preliminarily revised is it proposed to print off for the revising officers to enable them to meet the demands of persons applying for such lists, under section seventeen, sub section one, of the Franchise Act?

Mr. BOWELL. 1. The electoral lists prepared after those revised in 1886, have all been put in type. 2. Fifty copies or proofs of each have been struck off. 3. This will necessarily depend on the size of the constituency, and may depend to some extent on the legislation which may take place during the present Session. The lists will be furnished in sufficient time to enable the revising officers to proceed with their revision at the proper time. 4. Lists have been issued to several parties when elections to the House of Commons, or under the Canada Temperance Act were going on, or about to be entered on, and only then. 5 and 6. No regulations have yet been made upon these points.

## SUBSIDY TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. PERRY asked, Has the Government of Prince Edward Island drawn any sum of money from the Government of Canada, from the 1st day of January, 1888, to the 1st day of February, 1889, from capital or other than usual subsidy?

Mr. FOSBER. The Government of Prince Edward Island withdrew a sum of money from its capital account on the 14th of January, 1889, for local improvements. The sum was \$200,000.

## PREVENTIVE OFFICERS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. PERRY asked, Is it the intention of the Government to appoint preventive officers for Tignish and Nail