

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: Perhaps someone will explain the reason for that. It may be sentiment. The inscription is as follows: "Edwardus VII, Dei gratia rex imperator." That is good money. It bears the king's head.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: After such examples as these, I have come to the conclusion that I must support the amendment.

One argument made by the right honourable gentleman (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) impressed me. He asked why this question had not come up years ago, and why this agitation now. I think the logical answer is that never before has there existed, in regard to banking matters, exactly the same situation that prevails in this country to-day. Four years ago the Bank of Canada was not even mooted. This idea came from the left, where they are working in close harmony. I may say that the majority of bankers do not think a Central Bank is necessary. Nevertheless, the new order is, I believe, one reason why this question has become acute at the present time. It is my intention to vote for the amendment.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: The amendment to the amendment?

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: Not the amendment to the amendment. I am going to vote for the proposal to put the French language on one side of the bill with the English. The principal thing to be considered is whether we can get cash for these notes. The majority of people do not care a hoot about anything else. If you issue two series of bills you are going to multiply the work of every official of every bank. There is one thing that has not yet been definitely settled. I have not yet heard whether this amendment is *ultra vires* or not. If it is *intra vires*, I am in favour of it.

Hon. J. A. CALDER: Honourable members, one remark of the honourable gentleman who has just taken his seat causes me to say a word. I am inclined to look at this whole question from the practical standpoint. I realize that there is a good deal of sentiment in connection with the problem, and naturally so. The same question has been raised many times in the history of Canada, and though we may try to shut our eyes to the fact, we cannot deny that it has a political significance as well. However, I am not going to consider the sentimental or the political side of the subject.

I have listened attentively to the debate in order to discover what is the practical side of the problem, because, after all, that is the

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM.

essential feature. As far as I can see, only one point has been raised, namely the bother or inconvenience and the expense that will be involved if we adopt the proposal coming from the other House. I am sure that every member in the House, if he stops to consider for a moment, will agree that the question of what language or how many languages shall appear on our bills is of very little interest to the people of Canada as a whole. The honourable gentleman who has just taken his seat says that the language on the bill does not make any difference to him; that he would accept good money if it were Norwegian, Scotch, Italian or French. Is not that the position taken by the average man in the street? Do you suppose he bothers about this language question at all? In my opinion it does not concern him in the slightest degree.

Almost seventy years have passed since Confederation and I have never heard of any real agitation in any part of this country, not even the province of Quebec, to have the French language on bank bills. If there had been anything of that kind I think I should have heard of it. I and thousands like me are not in the least concerned as to what is on our money so long as it is good. That is the main point. If I go to Europe and travel about, I accept the English pound, the French franc or the currency of Italy or Belgium, so long as it is good.

I grant that the cost of engraving two plates to print bills in two different languages would be greater than the cost of one plate for bilingual bills, but the difference would be infinitesimal. You can print hundreds of thousands, yes, millions of bills from one plate; so I think we may eliminate the question of expense.

Now let us come to the actual working out of the proposal to provide bills in either language for those who want them. I am not going back to the days of the old Molson's Bank, because conditions existing then may have been different. Since 1867 Canada has had control of its currency and we have printed our Dominion notes only in English. But that is only half the story. If there has been any demand by the people of Canada for bills in any language other than English, why has that demand not been voiced by the banks? We have had in this country as many as thirty banks, all doing business with the people in the province of Quebec. The Bank of Montreal, one of the strongest in Canada, with headquarters in the city of Montreal, doing business there from year to year, has never issued one note printed in French or French and English. Why is this? If there was a demand on the part of any large section