

the acceptor reaccepts the bill by a declaration on the face of the bill in the form set out, that bill shall, for all purposes, including the liability of any drawer or indorser or any other party thereto, be deemed to be due and be payable on a date one calendar month after the date of its original maturity, and to be a bill for the original amount thereof increased by the amount of interest thereon calculated from the date of reacceptance to the new date of payment at the Bank of England rate current on the date of the reacceptance of the bill." The form of reacceptance is then set out. The urgency of this matter will be well understood when it is remembered that there are an enormous number of bills in the hands of banks and bill brokers upon which acceptors and indorsers would be called upon for payment at a time when payment would be impossible. The holders are asked to wait a month, subject to the acceptors being willing to reaccept their bills and pay interest for the privilege granted to them. The bank rate of interest had already fallen from 10 per cent. to 6 per cent. by Friday, the 7th August, so that the relief is granted on easy terms. Moreover, traders who have accepted bills in respect of goods purchased by them, though the bills have not been discounted, are also afforded a sensible relief. The debtor benefits by being granted a breathing space, and the creditor is estopped from proceeding to attempt to enforce a payment which might involve his debtor in ruin and be no benefit to himself. To adopt a well-known metaphor, he spares the goose that it may later lay the golden eggs.

The question of extending the moratorium was carefully considered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his legal and financial advisers during the succeeding Bank Holidays, and the results of their deliberation is embodied in the proclamation dated the 6th August. It provides for a very wide extension of the moratorium, and is of immediate importance to all classes of the community. By the terms of this proclamation it is provided that all payments due and payable before the 6th August, or to become due on any day before the 4th September, in respect of any bill of exchange (being a cheque or bill on demand) which was drawn before the 4th August, 1914, or in respect of any nego-