

extremes; one in the eastern provinces, certain districts of Nova Scotia, Quebec, and so on, and the other in some of our Northwest regions.

Q. I would be inclined to think, where I am acquainted with the people in small villages in Nova Scotia, that they understand a great deal about one another?—A. That is what I am saying, that is one extreme. The other extreme is the Northwest, where the people have flowed in in the last twelve months or two years and where they know very little about each other.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. That is to say, according to your views, institutions such as referred to by Mr. Monk would be quite in order in say Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario, generally, whilst it would be perhaps a dangerous experiment to have them in some sections of the west, in those far-away districts, where the people have just been settling?—A. Yes, and then there are differences even in Ontario and Quebec, as between the more changeable sections of the province and the less. These are minor differences, but the difference you express is certainly a great one.

*By Mr. Monk:*

Q. I find, Professor, there is confirmation of the opinion you express in a work prepared under the direction of the United States Statistician, by Mr. Edward T. Peters, and published by the United States government at Washington in 1892. The work entitled 'Co-operative Credit Associations in certain European countries and their relation to Agricultural interests.' If you will allow me, I will quote one or two passages. At page 113, Mr. Peters says:

'For example, institutions that would be adapted to the coloured tenant cultivators of the south might not be suited to white agriculturist tenants in the north and west; while such as are adapted to the last might fail to meet the requirements of the poorer class of agricultural proprietors. In any attempt to organize an association in a particular district the prevailing need, the habits, characteristics, and circumstances of the people, and in a district of a large foreign population even the nationalities most largely represented would have to be duly considered.'

A. Undoubtedly.

Q. And Canada presenting such a wide field and so many varieties of social conditions, it is quite possible that the loan and credit feature of the Bill would be very well suited to certain localities, is it not?—A. Undoubtedly.

Q. Further on the same author says:

'There is, however, a vast field in our own country in which a sufficiently large part of the population has all the fixity necessary for co-operative purposes.'

And at page 114, the same author says:

'When a plan is presented which, in its adaptation to the wants and circumstances of those for whom it is intended, has within it the germs of a vigorous life, the people are not slow to adopt it and improve upon it in the light of their experience.'

Do you coincide with that view?—A. Yes.

Q. At page 115 the same author, speaking of co-operative credit associations says:

'From this it results that the members—especially in the smaller country towns—are to a great extent personally known to one another; while the managers are also well known to the members and have themselves the best opportunities to learn the character and circumstances of every applicant for a loan and the reputation of every new candidate for membership.'

This feature, pointed out by Mr. Peters, do you not think lessens the risk that these associations might offer in the matter of loans and taking deposits?—A. The primary conditions of safety being implied, yes.

Q. There is an expression of opinion at the end of this work by Mr. Peters in which he says, in his concluding remarks on page 117: