

would be a precedent of the most dangerous nature to allow the motion to pass in its present state. I do say that, for the private transactions of a great number of persons, who have nothing whatever to do with the quarrels of parties outside of the House, to be brought into public light, might lead to untold mischief, and might have the result of gravely injuring the standing of the bank.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said that, if the statements asked for came within the Act, they must be received, if not, they were illegal.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said a very special power was granted, no doubt, to the Minister of Finance, with respect to this class of bank, under the 9th sub-section of section 6th,* but it was a power to be exercised with great care.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said the 6th section of the Act laid it down that returns should be made by banks to the Government or Parliament, including the list of stockholders. The first thing to be understood was whether there was a clause of this kind in the charter, by which certain information was to be given. If it was, then, of course, this information asked for should be given under the terms of the charter. If the bank was not obliged to make any of these returns asked for in this motion, by the charter, this House could not require it to do so. Either these returns asked for would come within the charter, or they would not.

MR. HOLTON said he was quite sure this bank would furnish any information and details which the Finance Minister might think it was desirable in the public interest to call upon them to supply. As to the charter, he (Mr. Holton) was connected with the bank at the time of its reorganization, and he was certain it was the counterpart of the Act, so far as the returns were concerned.

MR. TASCHEREAU said he thought it was desirable that this debate should be adjourned, in order that these amendments should be put into writing and considered by the House.

MR. MACKENZIE said the House might tacitly agree to allow the motion to pass, as arranged by the Finance Minister, if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taschereau) would agree to that.

MR. DEVLIN : It is merely putting it into form, that is all.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said he believed the object of the Act 30 Vic., cap. 7, was to limit the right of the Government to require information simply of the subjects specially specified on the charter. He was a member of the Banking and Commerce Committee in 1871, and remembered that point was rather fully discussed. It might be found that the hon. member for Kingston (Sir John A. Macdonald) was right in saying that the right of the Government to require information was strictly limited, but that was not the intention of the Committee at the time it passed. This was an Act for Savings Banks, and not the general Act, and the wording of it would, he believed, give a right to the ordinary returns.

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

G. B. BURLAND LETTERS PATENT BILL.

[BILL No. 36.]

(*Mr. Casgrain.*)

BILL WITHDRAWN.

Order for second reading read.

MR. MACKENZIE said he had to ask his hon. friend to withdraw this Bill. It was one for a simple extension of patent, the patentee having already enjoyed his full term under the law. He had looked at the memorandum which his hon. friend had been good enough to give him, and there was nothing in it to justify the House in allowing the law to be violated in extending the patent. It was only in the case where a doubt existed as to whether the party might have had the full extent of time under the terms of the law, whether he might have been prevented by accident or mistake from enjoying the benefit of the full term,