

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I think the hon. gentleman will find that most of these documents have been laid before the House. The first report was laid before the House, at all events.

Mr. CASEY. But not the evidence.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman may rest assured that the necessary time will be given to Parliament to examine the Bill, and to read the reports that have been made on the subject, before I move the second reading.

Bill introduced and read the first time.

MARITIME COURT OF ONTARIO.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron) introduced Bill (No. 37) to amend the Act to establish a Court of Maritime Jurisdiction in the Province of Ontario.

Bill read the first time.

BANK OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I rise for the purpose of asking leave to introduce a Bill (No. 38) for the relief of the Bank of Prince Edward Island, which I can only do by the unanimous consent of the House. It is a private Bill, for which there is no petition, and yet I am sure the House will, without opposition, allow me to introduce it. It is a Bill for the relief of the Bank of Prince Edward Island. It is known that that bank was obliged to suspend some little time ago. By its charter, which was granted by the Island Legislature, and is similar to our law, a suspension of ninety days operates for a suspension of the charter. The ninety days will expire on the 28th of this month. The bank has, I am happy to say, been able to make satisfactory arrangements with all its depositors, and I believe the directors are on the eve of making arrangements for the successful prosecution of their business, but not within the ninety days. A gentleman who is well known to a great many members of this House, Mr. Lewis Davies, formerly a member of this Parliament, is now in England, as the agent of this bank, for the purpose of making arrangements to enable them to go on with their business, and telegraphs that he is satisfied that he will be able to make those arrangements, but not within the statutory time. Of course, even if this Bill is passed by this House in one day, it will be too late, in consequence of the adjournment of the Senate, as the 28th will have arrived before the Bill can become law. There is, however, a clause in the Bill which provides that it shall have a retroactive effect; and if the Bill is not law at the expiration of the ninety days, it provides that there shall be an extension for ninety days longer. In that respect it is similar to the Act passed by the Canadian Parliament for the relief of the Royal Canadian Bank, in which a special clause was inserted granting an additional ninety days after the passing of the Act. I shall read the Bill, which contains only three clauses:

Whereas, the bank incorporated by the name of 'The President, Directors and Company of the Bank of Prince Edward Island,' by Statute of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, passed in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's reign, was compelled by unforeseen losses and difficulties, to suspend payment on the 28th day of November, 1881, and under the provisions of said Act, if such suspension continues for ninety days from that last mentioned, the charter of the bank will be forfeited except only for the purpose of winding up its affairs and business, unless legislative provision be made for its relief; and whereas, it appears that since the said suspension, efforts have been made, and negotiations entered into in England and elsewhere, for the purpose of enabling the bank to resume payment, and it has been satisfactorily shown that there is every reason to believe that such efforts and negotiations will be successful, and that the bank will be able within the period hereinafter mentioned, to resume payment; and whereas, in the interest of the public and more especially of the people of the said Province, it is expedient that the relief prayed for by the said bank be granted: Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

Mr. CASEY.

1. The period of ninety days, during which the said bank may resume payment without forfeiture of its charter, is hereby extended for ninety days after the passing of this Act, and if within that period the said bank resumes and continues payment in specie or Dominion notes, its charter shall continue in force as if no such suspension of payment as aforesaid by the bank had occurred.

2. If the said period of ninety days should have expired before the passing of this Act, the effect of the preceding section and provision shall be retroactive, and the charter of the bank shall, on the condition therein mentioned, be, and be held to have been, revived and continued, as if this Act had been passed before the expiration of the said ninety days."

I move, therefore, for leave to bring in this Bill, and that all rules and orders with respect to private Bills be dispensed with for that purpose.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I assume that the Ministry have satisfied themselves that the facts are all correctly stated, and that being the case—speaking for myself, and, I think I may venture to say, speaking for my friends on this side—no objection will be taken to what the hon. gentleman proposes. Of course he is aware—better, perhaps, than any other gentleman here—that this suspension is in danger of becoming a precedent which may be put into effect on occasions when there is not so much to recommend it as in the present instance. Still, I have no doubt that the course the hon. gentleman proposes is the best in the interest of the shareholders, the depositors and the creditors of the bank; and, so far as I am individually concerned, I will be glad to support the Bill.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. Minister of Finance is satisfied that the statements made in the preamble of the Bill are correct. There is, in fact, a Government deposit there, and the Government are ready to abide the result with the moral certainty of being paid in full.

Bill introduced and read the first, second and third times, and passed.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT enquired, When is it intended to introduce the Bill for the distribution of seats announced in the Speech?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Bill will be introduced very shortly, and early enough to give hon. members a full opportunity of perusing all its clauses, considering and discussing them.

THE CENSUS.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT enquired, Whether the information laid on the Table on the subject of the Census is all that is available, or that is to be submitted to the House this Session? If not, what further information is it intended to submit, and how soon?

Mr. POPE (Compton). Since the question was placed on the paper, other information has been brought down. Further information will be supplied, but when, it is impossible at present to say.

MONTREAL POST OFFICE.

Mr. COURSOL enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to cause a clock to be placed in the central tower of the Post Office at Montreal; and if so, when the said clock is to be placed in position?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is the intention of the Government to cause a clock to be placed in the central tower of the Post Office at Montreal; orders have been given to that effect, and the said clock is shortly to be placed in position.

AGED EMPLOYÉS IN THE MILITIA OFFICES.

Mr. AMYOT enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to place on half-pay, or grant a pension to