

(In the House.)

Bill reported.

Question proposed on the third reading of the Bill.

MR. GUTHRIE: In reference to bringing down such important matters, at so late a period in the Session, I find that the very same objections which have been urged from this side of the House on that point, were urged two years ago by the hon. gentlemen now composing the Government when they were in our places. It was in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway Bill. *Hansard* says:

"MR. TUPPER said he did not intend to enter into a long and vain discussion at this advanced stage of the Session, because he knew it was useless. He might say, however, that it was a great pity that measures of such great importance should be brought down so late in the Session."

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: It only shows that all the charges brought against the present Government were equally applicable to the late Government.

MR. KIRKPATRICK: I move that the Bill be referred back to the Committee to insert a clause. I find there have been some individuals in the country who have been assuming a very important title, and have formed themselves into partnerships, calling themselves bankers, and assuming corporate names. I hold in my hand the advertisement card of a firm who call themselves "The Bank of New Hamburg." I find that some gentlemen elsewhere call themselves "The Richelieu District Bank." They give themselves out to the public as receiving deposits. They assume these names, evidently with the intention of misleading the public, and getting themselves trusted as incorporate bankers coming under this Act. But they are in nowise amenable to the law we have just passed. I think it is our duty to protect the people of the country, so that they may not be misled into thinking that these individuals, who assume these high sounding titles to which they have no right, have any status under this Bill. I think that persons who assume these names should be made amenable to the Act. I, therefore, move the following additional clause:—

"That any person, firm or company, assuming or using the title of bank or banking company, without being authorised so to do by this Act or by the Acts relating to Banks and

Banking, or by some other Act in force in that behalf, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour."

MR. ROSS (West Middlesex): Do I understand that an individual cannot engage in a private banking enterprise and advertise himself?

MR. KIRKPATRICK: It does not apply to him if he calls himself a banker, but only if he assumes the title of a bank.

MR. ROSS: Suppose Mr. Kirkpatrick should say: "Mr. Kirkpatrick's Bank," and John Brown should say, "John Brown's Bank," and put his name on the sign?

MR. KIRKPATRICK: If he is a banker that is no harm—if he has money enough to support the title.

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT: I think the penalty proposed to be inflicted is rather severe. Calling an offence of this kind a misdemeanour, without some consideration, seems to me to be going too far. A more proper penalty would be to fix a fine on the party. I think it would better come from the hon. the Minister of Finance to say whether we should call a thing of that kind a misdemeanour.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I do not think the evil can be put down effectively without making it a misdemeanour. If there be two or three men who join themselves together and call themselves "The Bank of Hamburg," or "The Bank of Richelieu," or "The Bank of Galt," etc., it must be for the purpose of entrapping the public. They know perfectly well that they have no right to take a corporate name.

MR. McDONALD (Pictou): I do not think that a private individual should be prevented from doing business in his own name and calling himself a banker.

MR. BLAKE: I think he ought to be allowed to call himself a private banker; but I think an Act of this nature should not come into force until 1st July next, because there may be honest persons who call themselves bankers, as the law at present allows it, and they should have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with this Bill.

Motion in amendment agreed to.

House again resolved itself into Committee of the Whole and reported the Bill as amended.

Bill read the third time and passed.