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357.

3rd Session, 5th Parliament, 20 Victoria, 1857.

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BILL.

An Act to increase the rate of interest in
this Province.

Received and read first time, Wednesday 4th
March, 1857.

Second reading, Thursday, 10th March, 1857.

(250 Copies.)

Hon. Mr. BOULTON.

TORONTO :—Leader Steam-Press Print

BILL.

An Act to increase the rate of interest in this Province.

WHEREAS a modification of the Usury Laws took place some ~~Preamble.~~ years ago in this Province under the conviction that money would become more abundant, and consequently that the necessitous would obtain the same more easily and on more favorable terms; and whereas such has not been the case but the most demoralizing effects have been produced, and the most exorbitant rates of interest have been since obtained; and whereas such a state of things is injurious to Commerce and must tend to retard improvement of the Country; and whereas it is desirable to repeal the Act modifying the Usury Laws; and also to increase 10 the rate of interest to such an extent as would afford ample renumeration to the Lender, and at the same time would not be too oppressive on the Borrower, and which moreover would be in accordance with the rate prevailing in the adjoining State of New York:—Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and 15 Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:—

I. From and after the first day of July next, the Act passed in the ^{16 Vict. c. 50, and 13 & 20. Vict. c. 48} ~~repealed.~~ sixteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled: “An Act to modify “the Usury Laws,” and the Act passed in the Session held in the nineteenth and twentieth years of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled: “An Act 20 “for enabling all the Chartered Banks in this Province to enjoy a certain “privilege therein mentioned,” shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

II. From and after the said first day of July next the legal rate of interest ^{After 1 July 1857,} ~~the legal rate of interest to be~~ on all loans or debts contracted hereafter, or which may then be due ^{seven per cent} shall be seven per cent per annum, any thing in any law of the Province notwithstanding. Provided always, that upon any loan for a term of one ^{Proviso.} or more years, the rate of eight per cent may be charged and allowed.

III. From and after the said first day of July next it shall be lawful for any Bank or Banking Institution carrying on business as such in this Province, either under Royal Charter or in virtue of an Act of Incorporation passed by the Legislature of this Province, or of either of the late Provinces of Lower or Upper Canada, in discounting any note, bill or other negotiable security, or paper, *bonâ fide* payable at a place within this Province, different from that at which is discounted, to receive and 30 retain, in addition to the discount, an amount not exceeding one-quarter per centum on the amount of such note, bill, or other negotiable security or paper, to defray the expenses of agency and exchange attending the collection of such bill, note, or other security or paper.

<sup>After 1 July 1857,
Chartered Banks
may retain 1/4 per
cent. in addition
to discount in cer-
tain cases.</sup>