

respect, that the result of allowing higher rates than six per cent, would be to cause a good deal of irritation among the rural population of that Province. They were not insensible to the importance of that consideration at the present moment, and thought it undesirable for the House to do anything to cause political irritation just now among the inhabitants of Nova Scotia. At the same time the anomaly existing there was of such a nature that it ought not to be prolonged. Then, as regarded Quebec and Ontario, it was well known that in certain rural districts most exorbitant rates were exacted, from 10 as high, he believed, as 40 per cent. Such a condition of things, no doubt, pressed with very considerable severity on a large class of the community. The Government therefore proposed to take such a course, while it would not secure uniformity throughout the Dominion, would yet meet the varied interests and views of the different sections of the country. It was proposed, as regarded Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that, individuals should be on the same footing as banks, and be allowed to stipulate for and receive 7 per cent. As regarded Ontario and Quebec, it was proposed to allow all mercantile transactions to remain as now, free and unlimited; but, as regarded loans on security of real estate, it was proposed to provide that no greater rate of interest than eight per cent should be receivable. Mr. Rose concluded by reading a resolution to the effect he had stated and gave notice he would move it on a future day.

Mr. McConkey—Will the restriction apply to building societies?

Hon. Mr. Rose said it was not proposed to interfere with building societies or other corporations having now special privileges.

ALIENS AND NATURALIZATION

On motion of **Sir J. A. Macdonald** the Bill respecting aliens and naturalization was referred back to Committee of the Whole.

Messrs. Mackenzie, Cameron, Mills and Dunkin, advocated a change in the measure, settling this naturalization question once and forever. Negotiations between the Government of the Dominion and the Empire ought, it was contended, to be opened in order to bring about this settling. In the Provinces there were at present a considerable number of American and other persons considered as naturalized, and it was only just that they

[Mr. Rose (Huntingdon).]

should be fully naturalized. At present, according to American laws, these persons were regarded as continuing to be American citizens, and, by reason of acts done by British subjects, or their own acts as British subjects, these persons so considered naturalized, were liable, if on the other side of the line, to the heaviest pains and penalties, while the Dominion, in whose service they might be at the time, would be powerless to assist them.

Mr. Young thought the present law decidedly defective in the particulars mentioned, and trusted that a remedy would be applied. The difficulties in the way of naturalization ought to be made as few as possible, but this Act put difficulties in the way which were not experienced before. Under it a person had to go before a County Judge to take the oaths. He (Mr. Young) did not see the necessity for that. The old law under which a person was permitted to go before a magistrate and take the oaths was better. It was self-evident that the simpler the law was made the better. He would not therefore urge anything at length regarding these points.

Sir John A. Macdonald said that it was obvious they could not extend their privileges of naturalization beyond their own boundary. The Government had given the largest measure of naturalization they could. They did not limit the naturalization of the alien to the bounds of the Dominion, though that of course would be the effect of the law, but there had been no limitation by express words. On a former occasion he (Sir J. A. Macdonald) with Sir G. E. Cartier and the Hon. Mr. Brown, had pressed this naturalization matter on the Imperial authorities; but the difficulties in the way were so great that they did not succeed.

Mr. Mackenzie said that the present law would certainly entail great inconvenience in large counties in the West, such as Huron, Lambton and Bruce, where persons would have to travel a great distance in order to get a proper certificate at the Quarter Sessions. Besides there were several points connected with naturalization which required to be cleared up, but which were not touched by the Bill before the House.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau advocated such a law as would make British subjects in Canada British subjects all the world over, and regarding the present Bill as the nearest approach which could be yet made towards this consummation, he would vote for it.

Hon. Mr. Johnson asked why did they want naturalization? Did they want any number of Fenians who were no better than wild beasts to crowd in here?

Sir John A. Macdonald ultimately moved that the Order for the third reading be discharged, and that the House resolve itself into Committee on the Bill with the view of amending it. Carried.

The House went into Committee and amended the Bill. The amendments were read a first and second time and the Bill passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY AGAIN

Hon. Mr. Rose moved that the House again go into Committee of Supply on the estimates for 1868-69.

Hon. Mr. Holton asked if it was the intention to go on with the items relating to the proposed new militia staff. These officers had not yet been created, and it would be irregular and inconvenient to vote the supplies for a service, the expediency of which had not yet been affirmed. If these items were postponed until the resolutions connected with the militia Bill were passed, it would perhaps save a double discussion.

Sir John A. Macdonald said this course would be inconvenient. Supposing the militia resolutions did not pass, then these estimates would be useless.

Sir G. E. Cartier said he would not move concurrence in these items unless the militia resolutions passed.

The House then went into Committee and passed the following items—militia and gun boats, from item 44 to 45.

The next four items were said to be extraordinary by the Minister of Militia, especially barrack accommodations, rents, etc., \$800,000. This item he said must be reduced to a better understanding with the Imperial Government. The remaining items under this head passed, also pensions, \$17,225.22.

On the item stock, Western extension, European and North American Railroad, \$120,000.

Mr. D. A. McDonald called for more information. It was an enormous sum.

Hon. Mr. Holton said that a former debate showed Nova Scotia to be already one million and a quarter dollars ahead of her allowance under the Union Act, and New Brunswick was three-quarters of a million ahead. Besides he might add, in the old Province of Canada they were never called on to vote

such tremendous sums, in so magnificent a way as here proposed. Let the members for New Brunswick who were always probing matters and insisting on economy see to it that in this instance the House was not being asked to be too trustful, if not extravagant. For his own part he knew nothing about the figures.

Mr. Savary said it was true the debts of the Maritime Provinces exceeded what they were allowed to enter the Union with; but Quebec and Ontario were in the same position.

The House rose at six o'clock.

After Recess,

VARIOUS BILLS ADVANCED A STAGE

The following Bills were read a second time, considered in Committee of the Whole and reported:—Bill to incorporate the Merchants' Express Company of the Dominion of Canada, as amended by the Committee on Banking and Commerce—**Mr. A. Morrison**; Bill to incorporate the Canada Shipping Company, as amended by the Committee on Banking and Commerce—**Mr. Workman**; Bill to incorporate the Bank of Agriculture, as amended by the Committee on Banking and Commerce—**Mr. White**.

The following Bills were read a second time, passed through Committee, read a third time and passed:—Bill to confirm a certain by-law passed by the Directors of the Lake Memphremagog Navigation Company, and amended by the Committee on Banking and Commerce—**Mr. Colby**; Bill to amend the Acts relating to the Niagara District Bank—**Mr. Street**.

INTERNAL ECONOMY OF THE HOUSE

Sir J. A. Macdonald introduced a Bill relating to the internal economy of the House of Commons.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The House again went into Committee of Supply.

On the item relating to subsidies to N.B. Railways,

Hon. Mr. Holton asked information, and urged the necessity of proper precautions, lest, after the subsidies had been expended, the Companies should be unable to fulfil their obligations and the works should fall in an unfinished state on the hands of the Dominion Government.

After some remarks by **Hon. Mr. Fisher**,