

REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION ACTS 1834

- a. The Title of the Impost Duty Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 1

An Act for granting Colonial Duties of Impost for the support of
His Majesty's Government within this Province and for promoting
the Agriculture, Commerce and Fishery thereof.

825b

The Title of the Liquor Duty Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 2

An Act concerning Duties on Liquors Distilled within this
Province.

The Title of the Licence Duty Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 3

An Act for granting Duties on Licences for the sale of Spirituous Liquors
in Taverns, Public Houses or Shops, and for other purposes.

825d

The Title of the Light House Duty Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 25

An Act for the Support and Regulation of Light Houses.

825e

The Title of the General Duty Regulation Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 49

An Act for the General Regulation of the Colonial Duties.

The Title of the Brown Sugar Duty Drawback Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 10

An Act to continue the Acts for granting a Drawback of the Duties on Brown or Raw Sugar, used in the manufacture of Refined Sugars within the Province and for regulating the mode of obtaining the same.

The Title of the Appropriations Act, 4 Wm, IV, Cap. 11

AA

An Act for applying certain Monies, therein mentioned, for the service of the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty-four; and for appropriating such part of the supplies granted in this session of the General Assembly, as are not already appropriated by the Laws or Acts of the Province.

825 h

The Title of the General Duty Drawback Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 48

An Act concerning Goods Exported, and for granting Drawbacks.

The Title of the Tobacco Bounty Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 51

An Act to encourage the Manufacture of Tobacco in this
Province, by granting a Bounty thereon.

The Title of the Halifax Duty Collector Income Limit Act, 4 Wm. IV, Cap. 57

An Act to Limit the Income of the Collector of Impost and
Excise for ~~in~~ the District of Halifax.

ATTEMPTED LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE STERLING STANDARD IN N. S.
a. House Proceedings on the Bill 23 Jan. -18 Feb.

Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

p. 518.

Wm. Johnston 23/1/34
Thursday, 23d January, 1834.

Mr. Solicitor-General, pursuant to leave given, presented a Bill to establish the standard and value of Money in this Province, and for the assimilation of the Currency and Monies of Account thereof with those of the United Kingdom, and the same was read a first time.

Resolved, That the Bill be read a second time, on Wednesday next, the 29th inst.

WEDNESDAY, 5th FEBRUARY, 1834 .

OF

On motion, the Order of the Day was read, and thereupon, A Bill to establish the Standard and Value of Money in this Province, and to provide for the Assimilation of the Currency and Monies of account thereof, with those of the United Kingdom, was read a second time, and thereupon,

Mr. Solicitor-General moved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House; which being seconded,

Mr. Johnston moved, that the Bill referred to a Select Committee to report upon; which being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, thirteen; against it, twenty-one.

So it passed in the Negative.

The original question being then put, was agreed to by the House.

18 Feb 1834
TUESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 1834.

.....
Mr. Johnston moved, that the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the further consideration of the Bill to establish the Standard and Value of Money, &c. which being seconded.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the further consideration of the said Bill, relating to the Standard and Value of Money, &c.

.....
The Chairman reported from the Committee that they had considered the said Bill, and recommended to the House to refer the same to a Select Committee, to examine and report upon to the House, and also to report such necessary information as they can obtain upon the subject thereof.

On motion, resolved, that the said Report be agreed to.

Ordered, That Mr. Solicitor-General, Mr. Young, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Bliss, Mr. J.R. Dewolf, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Uniacke, Mr. Deblois and Mr. Barss, be a Committee for the above purpose, with power to send for Persons and Papers.

884/1834

Halifax Merchants Ask House to Reject Sterling Standard Bill

THURSDAY, 20th FEBRUARY, 1834.

.....

A Petition of John Albro and others, resident in Halifax, was presented by Mr. Deblois and read, praying that the proposed change in the Currency of the Province, by making British Sterling the Standard of Value, instead of Halifax Currency, be rejected by the House.

Ordered, That the Petition do lie on the Table.

To the Honorable The House of Assembly now in Session,
The Petition of the undersigned Merchants and Others
resident in Halifax --

Respectfully Sheweth

That Your Petitioners are most anxious as to the effect and tendency of the measure now under the consideration of your Honorable House for changing Halifax Currency into Sterling, and are apprehensive that notwithstanding the guards which Your Wisdom might impose, the effects of the contemplated alteration would be mischievous and highly inconvenient : That these in the opinion of your Petitioners would make themselves apparent by unsettling to a certain degree, the relations now subsisting between debtor and creditor, and creating much confusion in the business of the Province, as well as in our trade with the adjoining and Sister Colonies, which have not adopted and are not likely to adopt the same standard.

That Your Petitioners cannot perceive any advantages in the contemplated change, to counterbalance these very serious evils.

And therefore humbly hope that Your Honorable House will reject it, And as in duty bound will ever pray .

The Defeat of the Sterling Standard Bill

~~the Standard~~

~~10/10/1834~~

Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

Monday, 10th March, 1834.

p.600.

.....

Mr. Solicitor-General reported from the Select Committee to whom was referred the Bill to establish the standard and value of Money, and for the Assimilation of the Currency and Monies of Account thereof with those of the United Kingdom; that the Committee had met, and examined several persons in relation to the subject matter of the Bill, (among whom was the Deputy Commissary General) but, on a final division, eight Members of the Committee being present, they were equally divided, and could not come to any decisive conclusion; and thereupon,

On motion of Mr. Solicitor-General, resolved, that the said Select Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the said Bill, and that the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House.

On motion, resolved, that this House will, on Wednesday next, resolve itself into a Committee of the House, on the further consideration of the said Bill to establish the Standard and Value of Money, &c.

p.601.

1834
10 March

118

MG
N.S. JOURNAL,
1830 - 1836

16/3/34

WEDNESDAY, 12th MARCH, 1834.

.....
On motion, the Order of the Day was read ; and thereupon,

On motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the further consideration of the Bill to establish the standard and value of Money, &c

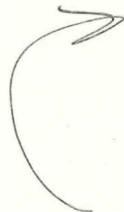
Mr. Speaker left the Chair,

Mr. Rudolf took the Chair,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported from the Committee that they had gone through the said Bill, and had made several amendments thereto, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he afterwards delivered the Bill with the amendments in at the Clerk's Table.

~~The~~



The said amendments were read throughout a first and second time, and, upon the question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the house.

Mr. Deblois then moved that the Bill, with amendments, do not pass to be fairly engrossed for a third reading; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, thirteen ; against it, twenty-four.



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~~800~~

116

N.S. JOURNALS
1830 - 1836

1834

WEDNESDAY, 26th MARCH, 1834.

.....

A Message from the Council, by Mr. Halliburton:

Mr. Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill, entitled, An Act to establish the Standard and Value of Money in this Province, and for the Assimilation of the Currency and Monies of Account thereof with those of the United Kingdom, with several amendments, to which amendments they desire the concurrence of this Honorable House.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The said amendments, proposed by the Council to said Currency Bill, were read a first time.

Ordered, That the amendments be read a second time.

1834
26 March

~~Handwritten scribble~~

Merchants

826d

Halifax Ask Council to Make Spanish Dollars and Doubloons the Standard of Value

8/18

4987

ca

Public Records of Nova Scotia
Manuscript Documents
Legislative Council
Vol. 207, 1833 - 1836. Document No. 65.

1834
9/2/34

To the Honorable His Majesties Council.

The Petition of the undersigned Merchants
of Halifax, Most Respectfully Shewith .

That your Petitioners having been informed,
that the Honorable the House of Assembly, have passed a
Bill by which it is rendered imperative upon the people
of this Province to receive Sterling Money at twenty five
Shillings currency to the pound Sterling in payment of debts
now existing.

Your petitioners humbly conceive that this
measure will have the effect of reducing the value of the
said debts, and establishing the premium upon Bills of
Exchange at an exorbitant rate.

W-3A

~~W-3A~~

who has debts outstanding, and the premium of Exchange will be fixed permanently at upwards of fourteen p.Cent. whereas money should receive its value only from the circumstances of trade, and not by legislative enactments, save and except for the purpose of defining what is a legal tender.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request , that Your Honorable House will not grant your assent, to any measure by which the value of Sterling Money may be established as before mentioned. And Your Petitioners as in Duty Bound will ever pray.

Correct
 W. H. ...
 L. S. ...

Petition of James Long & al.

Received 9th April 1834.

a. Petitions Blaming Depreciated, Irredeemable Paper Money for Commercial Depression

To the Honorable the House of Assembly of the Province
of Nova Scotia.

The Petition of the undersigned Merchants, Traders,
Mechanics and other Inhabitants of the Town of Halifax

Humbly Sheweth -

That the trade of this Province is now and has been for some time past labouring under severe embarrassment and depression which your Petitioners have no hesitation in attributing to the debased and depreciated paper currency in general circulation. As that paper, while it has taken the place of the precious metals is not exchangeable for them, a very heavy heavy and onerous tax is imposed upon all classes of the people by the unnatural elevation of the British ~~and~~ ^{and} Foreign Exchanges - by the delay, inconvenience, and uncertainty which attend ~~most~~ almost every transaction in business, and transfer of property .

Your Petitioners might bring before your Honorable House a great variety of circumstances to illustrate the evils which they feel it their duty to represent, but they consider that when they state there is no longer in this Country any standard of value by which property can be measured, and that the present difficulties therefrom resulting are heightened by the fears and apprehensions which the history of other Countries creates, they can add nothing by which the state of the Province will be more strongly conveyed to your Honorable House.

Your Petitioners humbly pray your Honorable House as speedily as possible to take these evils into your serious consideration and provide the only safe remedy by making cash payments compulsory, and thus restoring the currency to a sound and healthy state.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Halifax 21 January 1834.

SATURDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 1834.

.....

A Petition of Thomas James and others, Inhabitants of Bridgetown, was presented by Mr. Johnston and read, praying that the evils attending the present state of the Currency, and the want of a Standard of Value, may be remedied, by compelling Cash Payments for all floating and uncertain paper, now forming our only circulating medium.

On motion, resolved, that the Petition be referred to the Committee of the whole House on Bills committed, to be considered with the Bills relating to the Currency of the Province.

.....

Paper Money Depreciated; Banks Restricting Discounts

Resolved, -That the principal cause of the present distress in the trading community is in a great measure owing to the depreciated and degraded state of the Paper currency, which is at a discount of seven or eight per cent. -and in the Sister Province at a discount of ten or twelve per cent.; and the only mode to remove the evil is an immediate return to cash payments,

Resolved, That the committee do wait upon the Managers of both Banks, and request information as to the causes of the present restrictions of Discounts, and under what circumstances the operations of the Banks are designed to be resumed.

THE NOVA SCOTIA ROYAL GAZETTE, January 22, 1834.

This to be amplified into information re effected by the... only cause of... applied by... rate, and... was... on Public... of... [unclear] - see p. 10. [unclear] opened the day

*1834
22 Jan*

827b

True

£

22/1/34

879

Public Records of Nova Scotia

Manuscript Documents

Legislative Council

Vol. 292, 1833 - 1834.

Document No. 714

In Council 17th February 1834.

RESOLVED that a Conference be asked with the House of Assembly on the Bill entitled An Act concerning certain Notes purporting to be Bank Notes for restraining the circulation thereof and for other purposes, and that instructions be given to the Committee ^{of Conference to State to the Committee} of the House of Assembly

That His Majesty's Council concur in the necessity of resuming Cash payments and rather than lose the Bill entitled An Act concerning certain Notes purporting to be Bank Notes for restraining the circulation thereof and for other purposes they will agree to it as sent up by the House of Assembly without any amendment - but they suggest to the House whether the naming so short a day as the first of June next for

1834
 17 Feb

~~PA~~

~~D. A. ...~~

resuming Cash payments may not press haavily upon the mercantile Community - the Majority of which must from the course of business be indebted to one or other of the Banks.

The Council do not think it consistent with the principles of justice to vary existing Contracts and deprive the Banks of the option allowed to them by the Law of last year upon the Notes now in circulation without their consent - but they assume that the President and those members of the Bank of Nova Scotia who belong to the House of Assembly have expressed the concurrence of that Bank in the measure and as the President and Members of the Halifax Bank who have seats in Council have signified their willingness to concur in it also the Council feel themselves justified in passing the Bill under such circumstances - but they deem it necessary to record their reasons for so doing - as in the absence of such consent by the Parties to be affected by the Law it would be a departure from Principle and might be drawn into a Precedent.

~~Council
Mr. Kinneir
L. S. ...~~

Explanation of Part of the Bank Note Act 1834.

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA
MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

1829 - 1835

Vol, 237

Document No. 170

Halifax 20 April 1835,

Sir

With reference to your recent communication of the objection to which the last Clause of the Provincial Statutes of 1834, entitled " An act concerning certain Notes purporting to be Bank Notes &c" - has been considered liable , and in answer to your enquiry, as to the reason of introducing , the words "or intend to steal take & carry away &c" into that clause, I beg to make you acquainted with the circumstances attending this Enactment.

The Bill was introduced by myself with the object of preventing the circulation, and compelling the payment with Gold or Silver, of certain Notes (issued by the Banking Companies & others, and then current to a great Extent) which were expressed to be payable either in Specie or in Province Notes - An alternative

1835,
20 April

which, it was considered, precluded their being regarded in Law as promissory Notes, which it had also produced extensive mischief in the Local Currency .

When first introduced, this Bill did not contain the last two clauses ; But after it had been adopted with some alterations in the Committee of the House, these two clauses were added upon a suggestion - I think of the present Mr, Justice Bliss then a Member - that while remaining in circulation, these Bank Notes were treated as money, and ought to be protected against Forgery and Theft, in the same manner as legal Promissory Notes or Bills of Exchange - The Committee concurred in this ; and the Assistant Clerk of the House Mr, J, F, Gray was, requested to prepare the necessary clauses from the 7th & 8th Sections of the Act of 1828. Ch.3. for issuing Treasury Notes . . The draft was accordingly made , and on shewing it to me he observed (with reference to the then recent trial for Highway Robbery , and some questions were mooted among the Bar) that to meet those cases in which an attempt or intent to steal or commit a felony, constituted part of an offence under our Statutes, and

to prevent any doubt of their extending to charges where the undertakings mentioned in the Bill might be the subject of the Theft designed, it would be proper to insert in the Draft, the words "or intend" and or "intended" in the last clause - In the propriety of this addition I concurred ; and these words were interlined in the Draft ; and the Clauses thus amended, adopted by the Committee and added to the Bill -

In the hurry generally attending the passage of a Bill through a Committee of the whole House, that deliberate consideration of the terms of a new Clause, which is so highly desirable, cannot be given - Nevertheless on reference to the ninth section of the Provincial Statute 32 Geo.3.. ch.13. where the "Breaking open and entering by night any Dwelling House &c, or Vessel with intent to commit any felony, whether such felonious intent " be executed or not " ; is made a capital offence ; and to the eighteenth Section of the same act, which makes it also capital for "any Servant, to go away with any money goods or chattels delivered "to his keeping, with intent to steal the same" Both which Sections

appear to be copied from English Statutes, I think precedents are there found, for the Terms which have been objected to in the present instance - And in practise Difficulty I cannot anticipate under this Enactment ; because under an Indictment framed upon it I conceive that the intention to steal such writings, could only be proved by evidence of some overt act from which a Jury under the instructions of the Court would be justified in inferring the Intention charged - and which Evidence would be of the same character as that required under the Sections above alluded to -

I have the honor to be S ir .

Your most obedient

and very humble Servant

Charles R. Fairbanks

Charles R. Fairbanks
L. J. Grant

AN ACT FOR REGULATING THE CURRENCY 1834

a. Failure of Attempt to Alter Rating of British Coins From 25s. cy. to 24s. cy. per Pound Sterling

896

*Amendment of Money Bill - his amendment not agreed to
Currency Bill - Amendment adopted*

1/4

N.S. JOURNALS,
1830 - 1836.

P. 668
MONDAY, 7th APRIL, 1834.

*1834
passed*

.....
~~So it passed in the Negative.~~

[Mr. Stewart moved, that this House do come to a Resolution that they will not further consider the amendments proposed by the Council to the Bill to establish the Standard and Value of Money, &c. which, being seconded and put, was agreed to by the House.

.....
On motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the further consideration of the several Bills which stood committed.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair,
Mr. Lovett took the Chair,
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The

6881

The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill for regulating the Currency of this Province, and the Bill for the relief of Robert Hill, an Insolvent Debtor, and had made sundry amendments to the said Bills respectively, which amendments the Committee had directed him to report to the House:

.....
and he afterwards delivered the Bills with the amendments in at the Clerk's Table.

The Chairman also acquainted the House, that he was directed by the Committee to move for leave to sit again, on the consideration of the several Bills which stood committed, which the House agreed to.

The Amendments to the Bill to regulate the Currency of this Province, were read throughout a first and second time, and thereupon,

Mr. Deblois moved, that the said Amendments be not received by the House, but that the said Bill be re-committed, for the purpose of altering the same, so as to make the British Silver and Gold Money payable at Twenty-four Shillings to the Pound Currency, instead of Twenty-five Shillings, as fixed by the said Bill - which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, eight ; against it, twenty-five.

.....

So it passed in the Negative.

The said Amendments were then, upon the question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Third Reading and Passage of the Bill for Regulating the Currency

897

Rider to Cy Bill

MG

N.S. JOURNALS,
1830 - 1830.

P. 670
TUESDAY, 8th APRIL, 1834.

*1834
8 April*

.....

An engrossed Bill for regulating the Currency of this Province, was read a third time, and thereupon,

Mr. Bliss moved, that the following enacting Clause be added to the Bill, by way of Rider, viz:-

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be and continue in force for one year, from the passing thereof, and no longer : which being seconded, and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, fifteen; against it, twenty-one.

Division not omitted.

So it passed in the Negative.

Mr. Chipman then moved, that the following enacting Clause be added to the said Bill, by way of Rider, viz:-

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be
and

and continue in force for one year, from the passing thereof, and from thence to the end of the then next Session of the General Assembly : which being seconded, and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, seventeen; against it, nineteen.

.....

So it passed in the Negative.

Mr. Solicitor-General then moved, by way of further Rider to the Bill, that the following enacting Clause be also added thereto, to wit :-

And be it further enacted, That any Gift, Grant, Contract, Bargain, Sale or Dealing for Money, and any Bill, Note, Draft, Acceptance, Receipt or Acknowledgment, for the payment of Money, or any matter or thing relating to Money on the face thereof, or therein expressed to be or made payable in British Sterling, or in British Money shall be stated, shall be liable to

~~be~~

be paid, discharged, satisfied and accounted for, by a like sum of Money of the United Kingdom or British Sterling : which being seconded, and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, thirteen ; against it, twenty-two.

So it passed in the Negative.

Resolved, that the Bill do pass, and that the title be, An Act for regulating the Currency of this Province.

Ordered, That the Clerk do take the Bills to the Council, and desire their concurrence.

Council's Amendments to Currency Bill

879

Council's Amendments to Currency Bill
- Home Affairs

17/1/1834

Journals of Assembly
N.S. 1830-36.

409

Tuesday, 15th April, 1834.

1700.

The amendments proposed by the Council to the Bill, entitled, An Act for regulating the Currency of this Province, were read a second time, and are as follow, viz -

1834
15 April

Preamble to 1st Clause.

Leave out the word "British" in the 18th line, and instead thereof insert the word "Foreign." After the word "and" in the same line insert the words "certain British."

1st Clause.

Leave out the words "Gold and," in the 4th and 16th lines; leave out the Table at the end of the Clause, and insert instead thereof the following words, - "the English Shilling at the rate of One Shilling and Three-pence Currency, and the English Sixpence at the rate of Seven-pence Half-penny," and add the following proviso - "Provided always, that no person shall be obliged to receive at one time payment of more than Fifty Pounds of Halifax Currency in British Silver Money at the rate

rate or rates aforesaid."

2d Clause.

After the word "whatever" in the 11th line add the following words - "Contracted since the Nineteenth day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nineteen."

3d Clause.

Leave out the words "liabilities, monies, debts, or" in the 8th and 9th lines - After the word "Contracts" in the 9th line insert the following words, "which shall hereafter be entered into for the payment of British Sterling Money."

At the end of the Bill insert the following Proviso -

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be in force until the thirty-first day of December, which will be in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-five and no longer.

Mr. Solicitor-General moved that the further consideration of the Amendment proposed to the first Clause of the Bill be deferred until this day three months - which being

seconded

seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, seven; against it, nineteen:

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So it passed in the Negative. ~~MM~~

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The said Amendments to the first Clause were then, upon the question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Mr. Solicitor-General then moved, that the further consideration of the amendment proposed to the second Clause be deferred until this day three months - which being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, nine; against it, eighteen.

So it passed in the Negative.

The said Amendment to the second Clause was then, upon the question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Mr. Solicitor-General then moved, that the Amendments proposed to the third Clause be not agreed to by the House - which being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, ten; against it, seventeen:

..... ~~so~~

So it passed in the Negative.

The said Amendments to the third Clause, together with the Amendments proposed to the Preamble of the Bill, were then upon the question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Mr. Deblois moved, that the last Amendment proposed by the Council, viz. the adding the Continuing Clause to the Bill, be agreed to by this House - which being seconded,

Mr. Solicitor-General moved, by way of amendment to the question, that the further consideration of the said proposed Amendment be deferred until this day three months - which being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the Amendment to the question, eight; against it, nineteen.

So it passed in the Negative.

And the said last Amendment, proposed by the Council, to the Bill, was then, upon the question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered

Ordered, That the Clerk do take the said Bill, entitled An Act for Regulating the Currency of this Province, together with the said Amendments, back to the Council, and acquaint them that this House have agreed to all the said Amendments.

17335
cap 61

THE TITLE OF THE MONEY BORROWING ACT 1834, 4 Wm. IV, CAP. 61

An Act for borrowing Money for the use of the Province.

PROVINCIAL TREASURY NOTES 1834
a. Attempted Legislation for Withdrawal of the Treasury Notes

872/3/5

13/2/1834

Journals of Assembly
1830-36. N.S.

Monday, 3d February, 1834.

p. 529.
p. 531.

1834
3/2/1834

.....
The Bill concerning certain Notes, purporting to be Bank Notes, for Restraining the Circulation thereof, and for other purposes, was read a second time; and thereupon,

Mr. Solicitor-General moved, that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House, which being seconded,

Mr. Deblois moved, by way of amendment, that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee to report thereon; which Committee shall also report whether the following system should not be adopted in lieu of the Bill now before the House, viz: -

That it is expedient that the Notes issued from the Treasury and now in circulation under the Acts of the Assembly of this Province, should be redeemed from and after the first day of _____ in Specie when demanded at the Treasury, in sums of not less than 25l.

And in order to provide for the payment of the said

Notes

Notes in Specie, the Commissioners for issuing Province Notes be authorised, by notice in the Royal Gazette and other Newspapers, for six weeks, to receive and accept Tenders for a Loan of in sums of not less than 100/. The Money so Loaned to be repaid in years and the interest thereon to be paid half-yearly, provided nevertheless, that the interest on the said Loan shall not exceed five per cent. per Annum, and that the sum of Money to be borrowed as aforesaid, shall be received into the Treasury in Specie, viz: - in British Coin, at the rate of 24s. Currency for every Pound of Sterling Money, or in Spanish Dollars at 5s. Currency each, or in Doubloons at 4/. Currency; all of said Coins to be of full weight, and that when payment of the said Provincial Notes shall be required at the Treasury, they shall be redeemed in Coins of the above denomination and value, as the Treasurer may at the time be provided with. And whereas, by the adoption of the foregoing system, provision is made for redeeming the Treasury Notes in Specie -

And whereas, the further circulation of a Paper Currency, will

~~be~~

be by Banks or other Individuals payable in Specie on demand -
And whereas, considerable profits may be made from the Public,
by loss or destruction as well as by the circulation, of such
Notes: It will therefore be expedient that so much of the Act
passed last Session of the Legislature, entitled, An Act to
Restrain the Issue of certain Promissory Notes, as prohibits
the Issue of such Notes under Five Pounds, be repealed, and
that hereafter such Notes may be issued for any sums not less
than 10s. in value, provided, that no Note shall hereafter be
issued except the same shall be stamped by persons to be here-
after authorised by Acts of the Province, to stamp such Notes,
and that for every such Note of 10s. a duty shall be paid to
the Province of two-pence, and so on in proportion for every
other such Note which may be issued by any Bank, Bankers, or
others authorised so to do; which being seconded,

Tuesday, 4th February, 1834.

.....
Mr. Stewart moved that the House do come to a Resolu-
tion as followeth, viz:

Resolved, That provision be made as well for the re-
demption of the Provincial Notes now in circulation, as for
the equalization and reduction of the annual charge now borne
by the Province, for the interest payable upon the funded debt
of the Province; and, that a Committee be appointed to pre-
pare and report a Bill for the consideration of this House,
for carrying the Resolution into effect, and that the said Com-
mittee do also insert in the said Bill, provisions, by which
a tax or duty, (as near as possible commensurate with the whole
annual interest which shall be thereby payable by the Province,)
may be imposed upon the two Banking Establishments now in oper-
ation in this Province, which being seconded.

Wednesday, 5th February, 1834.

.....
Mr. Deblois moved that the House do come to the following Resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That this House do no longer deem it conducive to the interests of this Province, to issue and keep in circulation, Treasury Notes, not redeemable on demand in Specie. ~~W~~

Resolved therefore, That it is highly expedient and necessary to make provision that those Notes in circulation be called in and redeemed in Specie.

Resolved therefore, That a Committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill to provide for the payment of the Treasury Notes in circulation.

And whereas, certain Promissory Notes are now issued, and may hereafter be issued, by Banks or other Individuals - it is just and reasonable, that such Banks or Individuals, receiving from the Public a certain gain or profit from such

Issues, should bear a certain proportionable duty to be imposed upon such Issues: Resolved therefore, that the said Committee do report, what amount of Duty should, in their opinion, be imposed on Promissory Notes now, or which may hereafter be, Issued by any Bank or other Individuals, or in what other manner Banks or other Individuals ought to contribute to the Public Revenue, for the privilege of alone circulating Bank Notes; and thereupon,

The said Resolutions being seconded, and the first Resolution under consideration,

Mr. Solicitor-General, moved, as an amendment thereof, to leave out all the words after the word "Resolved," and, instead of the words so left out, to substitute the following, viz

That it is expedient at the present Session not to adopt any measures affecting the existing enactments on the subject of the Provincial Treasury Notes, except only such provisions as may be necessary for authorising the issue of Certificates for amounts under 100{.}, and for facilitating their ~~trans-~~
~~fer~~

transfer: which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the amendment, Twenty-five; against it, Eleven.

..... ~~(Twenty-five in the affirmative)~~

So it passed in the affirmative.

The remaining original Resolutions were then, by leave of the House, withdrawn by Mr. Deblois.

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA
MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

VOL. 240

1832 -1834Document No. 103

Bank of Nova Scotia

Halifax, 27th May 1834

Sir

As the Act of last Session, establishing Cash payments on the first of June, will necessarily prevent the Bank from receiving ^{any} Notes which are not convertible into Specie on demand, I beg to submit to your Honor's consideration, whether some measure may not be devised by the Executive, which will enable the Bank to receive the Province Notes as heretofore.

In making this communication I am actuated by a sincere desire, that every exertion should be made by the Bank of Nova Scotia to prevent any possible interruption in the present Provincial Currency, and I beg leave earnestly to recommend this important subject to your Honor's early consideration.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

William Lawson Pres't

The Hon'ble

Thomas Nicholson Jeffery

President & Commander in Chief

&c, &c,

Memo: After consulting with
Solicitor General the President
requested that Officer to inform
Mr. Lawson that his house had no
Power to interfere in this matter.

Correct
W. H. ...
L. D. ...

BANK OF N.S. AFFAIRS 1834

a. Call for Further Payment Toward Capital Stock

The Novascotian
or
Colonial Herald.
1833.

p. 406.

Halifax, December 18, 1833.

12/18/33

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

THE Stockholders of the Bank of Nova Scotia, are hereby required to pay in a further instalment of twelve and a half per cent, on the Capital Stock, being Six pounds five shillings on each share, on or before Wednesday the 5th day of February next, at the Bank, agreeably to the act of Incorporation.

*1833
12 Dec.*

By order of the President and Directors,

JAMES FORMAN,

Cashier.

Halifax, December 12.

Statement of the Bank of N. S. Affairs

5/1/1834

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA
MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS
SUPPLEMENTAL VOLUME 1808 -1834,
Vol. 282 . Document No. 98 .

General Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of
Nova Scotia, 31st January 1834.

Capital Stock paid in	50,000	-	-
Deposits	16,480	16	4
Notes in Circulation	68,201	-	-
Dividend of 3 P cent for the half Year ending the 31st January pay'ble 8th March...	1,500	-	-
Balance in favour of the Bank	285	1	11
	<u>£136,466</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>
<hr/>			
Gold and Silver on hand	20,901,	10	.8
Province Notes	9,457,	10	-
Notes of other Banks	8,974,	10	-
Debts due to the Bank	97,022,	5	5
In the Hands of the Agent in London	111,	2	2
	<u>£136,466,</u>	<u>18,</u>	<u>3</u>

1834
31 Jan

James F orman

Cashier

William Lawson, Prest.

S.N. Binney

James B. Uniacke

William Murdock

W.H.Snelling

John Brown

Lewis Bliss

A lex. Murison

Jas. Leishman

J ohn Spry Morris

M.A. Almon

W.B.Bliss .

*Agreed
L. J. Grant*

ATTEMPTS BY BANK OF N. S. TO RETURN TO ISSUING NOTES FOR LESS THAN £5
 a. Halifax Merchants Ask House to Reverse the Restriction of the Banks to Issuing
Notes of £5 and Above

882

393

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA
 MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS
 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF NOVA SCOTIA .

1834 - 1835.

VOL. 312. Doc. No. 56.

17/3/34

1834
 19 July
 C

To the Honorable

The House of Assembly, now convened,

The Petition of the Undersigned Merchants & others of Halifax,

Humbly Sheweth -

That your Petitioners in common with all classes of the community, are at present suffering great inconvenience from the recent contraction of the circulating medium of the Country.

That the accomodation afforded by Bank credits and discounts has occasioned a great increase in the Trade of this Port within the last few years, That these facilities (which your Petitioners have freely availed themselves of) being suddenly checked, have already caused great inconvenience and loss to the trade of the Country.

That your petitioners have learned that a Bill has passed your Honorable House restricting the Banks to the issue of notes of Five Pounds and upwards, which measure in the humble opinion

of your petitioners, will not have the effect of relieving the embarrassments of the community.

Your Petitioners therefore submit to your Honorable House the propriety of allowing the Banks to issue notes of a smaller denomination, whereby it is expected much relief would be afforded to the trade of the Province.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray --

Halifax, N. S.

19th February, 1834.

~~Petitioners~~ ? ~~Balch~~ ?

Correct
M. Munnick -
L. J. Grant

Bank of N. S. Asks House to Allow it to Issue Notes Down to 26s.

883

Public Records of Nova Scotia

Manuscript Documents

Legislative Library

Vol. 202, 1833 - 1836 . Document No. 45.

To the Honorable the Legislative Council of
Nova Scotia, in Provincial Parliament Assembled -

The Petition of the Stockholders of the Bank of Nova
Scotia, respectfully sheweth,

That on the passing of the
Act of the Legislature in the Session of 1832, for incorporating
the Bank of Nova Scotia guaranteeing to it certain rights
and priveleges, Your Petitioners became and still are Subscribers
to and holders of the Stock of that institution to a large
amount.

That your Petitioners considering no paper
Currency sound unless convertible in Specie on demand saw
with much satisfaction the subject of the present state of

1834
1924

of the currency early taken up by the Legislature during the present Session, in consequence of which a Bill has already passed the House of Assembly providing for a return to Specie payments ~~made~~ by the Banks on an early day which Bill, your petitioners learn is now before His Majesty's Council for consideration. -

Gratified however as your petitioners are at the near prospect of what they have ever contended for as essential to the best interests of the Province, they find with much regret that there is one clause in the Bill which vitally affects their interests, and will materially circumscribe the legitimate accomodation which the Public has a right to expect from the Bank of Nova Scotia : - they allude to that clause in the Bill by which the Bank is restricted from issuing Notes under Five Pounds.

By the 31st Section of the Act of Incorporation, the Bank of Nova Scotia was restrained from putting into circulation

~~13~~

Project No. 45

" Any Bills or Notes for a less sum than twenty six shillings"-
Under guarantee from this clause , although your Petitioners
considered such restriction unnecessary, they were induced
to embark their capital and they unhesitatingly avow that if
the Act of Incorporation had originally restricted them to an
issue of Notes not less than "Five Pounds" as is now proposed
they would not have subscribed to the Stock of the Bank of Nova
Scotia.

Your Petitioners are confirmed in the correctness
of their views on this head, from the results exhibited in
the annual Statement of the Incorporated Banks in the Canadas
where with all ^{the} advantages of a small note circulation , which
has not proved prejudicial , the dividend on their Capital
Stock has never exceeded six or eight per cent per Annum, and
if their circulation were contracted to the extent proposed
to be adopted in relation to the Bank of Nova Scotia Your

fact

Done

Petitioners doubt if business could possibly be carried on

Under these circumstances therefore which are respectfully submitted to Your Honours, Your Petitioners trust that as all the benefits contemplated in a return to Specie payments by the Banks can be obtained and secured without any infringement of the chartered rights of Your petitioners that the Bill before Your Honourable Board will be so far amended that those rights may not be endangered and that as far as regards your petitioners the public faith will be held sacred and their Charter preserved as originally granted -

And Your Petitioners as in duty bound will

ever pray

Correct
M. Almon
L. Brown

Petition of M.B. Almon & others.

M.B. Almon	
Lewis Bliss	
Alex. Murison	Directors
John Spry Morris	of the
M.A. Snelling) Bank of
S.N. Bihhey	(Nova
Jas. Leishman) Scotia on
William Murdock	behalf of
John Brown	themselves
	and the
	other
	Stockholders

Rec'd 19th February 1834.

Bank of N. S. Asks President of N. S. to Intercede on its Behalf in the Small Note Question

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA

MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

1829 - 1835,

VOL. 237 -

Document No. 105

To His Honor, Thomas N. Jeffery, President
and Commander in Chief, of the Province of
Nova Scotia & Cta, & Cta, & Cta. -

The Memorial of the Stockholders
of the Bank of Nova Scotia,

Respectfully sheweth,

That your Memorialists in the year 1832,
received from the Legislature of this Province, an Act of
Incorporation, granting certain rights and privileges for a
term of fifteen years .-

That upon the faith of the said Charter, Your
Memorialists invested a large Capital and became proprietors of
the Stock of the Bank of Nova Scotia .-

That by the 31st Section of the Act of Incor-
poration, the Bank was expressly permitted to circulate any
Bills ~~or Notes, not~~ being less than "twenty six shillings".-

1834
March

That Your Memorialists understand a Bill is in progress through the Legislature, by which they are about to be deprived of the privilege granted to them of issuing small notes, and which Your Memorialists humbly consider, if passed into a Law, will have the effect of infringing the rights and immunities conferred by their Charter. -

In addition to the reason above assigned Your Memorialists also conceive that much serious inconvenience will result to the Public by the necessary withdrawal of the accommodation which has hitherto been afforded by the Bank, and thereby tend to increase the distress already experienced by the Mercantile Community .-

Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray that Your Honors will be pleased to take into your favourable consideration, the circumstances now brought to Your Honor's notice, and afford such relief as Your ~~Memorialists~~ Honor may deem proper.

And Your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray .-

M. B. Almon.

Chairman of the Board

on behalf of the Directors, and

Stockholders of the Bank of Nova Scotia

Halifax 1st. March 1834,

Correct
M. B. Almon

House Dismisses Second Petition of Bank of N. S. for Relief from the Small Note Restriction

905

~~The Restriction on Bank Note Issues~~
~~to be continued~~

5/12/1834

Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

Friday, 5th December, 1834.

p. 719.

.....
A Petition of M. B. Almon and others, Directors, on behalf of the Stockholders of the Bank of Nova-Scotia, was presented by Mr. Stewart and read, praying the restriction of the Issue of Bank Notes, to sums of Five Pounds and upwards, may be removed, and thereupon,

Mr. O'Brien moved that the Petition be dismissed; which being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, eighteen; against it, nine.

So it passed in the Affirmative.

1834
5 Dec

Bank of N. S. 'Again Petitions for Repeal of Act Restricting their Note Issues to £5 and above

943

Bank of N.S.'s petition for restoration of small note privilege
 - 8/2/72 - see debate
 in previous class

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA
 MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS
 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF NOVA SCOTIA.
 1836 - 1837 . Vol. ~~315~~ Doc. No. 19.

To the Honorable the House of Assembly
 of the Province of Nova Scotia in Session.

The Petition of the Directors of the Bank of Nova Scotia,
 whose names are underwritten, on behalf of the
 Shareholders in that Corporation .

Respectfully Sheweth.

That on the thirtieth day of March 1832. an Act of Assembly
 of this Province was passed, which, after reciting that "the
"Establishment of a public Bank at Halifax would be greatly
"advantageous to Trade and Commerce and otherwise advance the interests
"of the Province by increasing the circulating Medium of business
"and promoting a more extensive and beneficial employment of the
"Resources and Industry of all Classes of its Inhabitants and that

1836
 8/2/72

"several Persons had associated themselves for the purpose of forming such an Institution and had applied for an Act of Incorporation for the same," proceeded to unite into a body politick and corporate the Proprietors of Shares in the said projected Corporation and their Successors and to describe in detail the Objects of the Bill and the various Guards and Restrictions deemed necessary to be imposed upon the Rights it conferred.

That the said Corporation was declared to have authority to conduct the business of banking in all its branches with such limitations only as the Act itself should express and the only limitation which was in fact imposed as regarded the denomination of the notes to be issued by the Company being a restriction against the circulation of any Notes for a less sum than twenty six Shillings - the Act conveyed a full and expressed Authority and privilege to the Corporation to issue its notes for any Amount exceeding the Sum so limited.

That this Privilege together with every other conferred, by the Act under review, was granted to the Corporation for the full period of fifteen Years by a Clause continuing the Act in force for that time.

Your Petitioners beg permission to state that the subject was introduced to the consideration of Your Honorable House by a Petition very numerously

signed by Merchants and other Individuals of respectability and intelligence, the greater part of whom had no Interest in the subject further than they considered the establishment of a chartered Bank to be an object of great public Benefit; and more especially your Petitioners would recall to the notice of your Honorable House that the Act passed not unadvisedly not hastily.

It underwent discussions which while they embraced the whole subject in its widest range of principles, disdained not to descend to its most minute details ; and in the long and searching discussions which it underwent, no danger to the public, real or imagined, present or contingent was forgotten or failed to find eloquent advocates among the opponents of the measure.

Before the Bill left the Honorable House to be considered elsewhere, every Guard was attached to it which it was thought the public Security could possibly require ; and it is believed that it passed through a second and not less trying investigation in the Upper branch of the Legislature, whence it came back to your Honorable House guarded with additional Securities suggested by the Experience and Caution of that Honorable Body.

Through such Circumstances, the Bill at length passed into a law ; and your Petitioners may express their conviction that no Bill whatever its

nature or Object ever passed the Legislature of Nova Scotia, upon which had been bestowed more laborious investigation, more earnest Watchfulness or more jealous Caution.

And your Petitioners state that such was the practical view taken of this Act by those interested in its Object, that some of the Individuals who originally engaged in the Enterprise, were deterred by the unexpected severity of the terms imposed by the Act, and refusing to join the Corporation on those terms, withdrew ; and that those who persevered and those who afterwards took Shares in the Chartered Company did so, upon the faith that the Act as it passed, contained the Terms upon which their Property would be invested and the Adventure be regulated during at least the period of fifteen years.

Your Petitioners beg now to call the notice of the Honorable House to Acts of the Legislature by which this well grounded Assurance was disappointed-

On the twentieth of April 1833. an Act passed by which the issuing by any Person or Bodies corporate of Notes for a less amount than five pounds after the first day of January 1834. was prohibited under a heavy penalty; and on the *thirty-* first day of March 1834. another Act passed repealing the one last mentioned but renewing that Prohibition and penalty after the first day of June 1834. which

continues still in force.

Your Petitioners beg leave to state that before the passing of these Acts , the Bank of Nova Scotia had at great Expense procured Plates for striking off Notes for thirty, forty, and fifty Shillings and had caused numerous impressions from them to be cast and depended on their circulation as a considerable part of their business ; and your Petitioners respectfully state that the Legislature by prohibiting the exercise of the Privilege granted to the said chartered Company under the Act of Incorporation of issuing Notes for Sums between twenty six Shillings and five pounds, abridged and altered the Rights conferred on the Corporation by that Act, (and upon the faith of which, the Speculation was engaged in) to an important degree and in a manner very injurious to the Interests of the Association ; and Your Petitioners firmly believe that had such a Restriction made part of the Act of Incorporation, that Act would yet have remained a dead letter and no Attempt have been made to act under its Provisions nor would the difficulties , anxieties and risks which attended the establishment of the Company have been encountered.

Your Petitioners believe they ~~are~~ warranted in viewing the Act of Incorporation as an Agreement entered into by the Legislature on the part of the public on

the one hand and by the Members of this Corporate Association on the other and when they consider that its terms were sanctioned^t by the Wisdom and most solemn Consideration of both Houses fully called into exercise Your Petitioners believe that they do not violate the respect due to your² Honorable House in respectfully presenting the subject to the notice of your Honorable House as a matter of Contract and agreement entitled to be considered and governed by the same principles which govern the contracts and Agreements between Man and Man and as only distinguishable from private agreements in two respects, that is to say, In the Power possessed by your Honorable House : and in its duty in cases of imminent necessity to secure the public safety even at the expense of private right ; and on these points, your Petitioners would entertain the Confidence -- that the possession of such power as that which clothes your Honorable House so far from rendering Your Honorable Body indifferent to the Consideration now suggested would rather induce a more scrupulous attention; and that if your Honorable House upon re-~~viewing~~ viewing its past legislation should perceive that the withdrawing from the Nova Scotia Bank a privilege after the enjoyment of it for a little more than a Year , which the Act of Incorporation granted to them for fifteen years, was indeed inconsistent with their just expectations and privileges under the Act,

your Honorable House would cheerfully remove the restriction complained of , unless there should exist some necessity with relation to the public safety so constraining and imminent as to cancel every obligation of private rights ; The Question therefore as your Petitioners humbly conceive is now by virtue of the passing of the Act of Incorporation, whether indeed such a necessity as this exists ; and not, whether it might or might not be more or less beneficial to the public to limit the lowest denomination of Notes to Five pounds : That a necessity so urgent and constraining does not in fact exist, your Petitioners believe will be generally admitted - but were it necessary -- or proper in this place, Your Petitioners would feel no hesitation in undertaking to show that in truth the Circulation of a paper Currency between twenty six Shillings and five pounds redeemable in Specie at any Moment, would , in the circumstances of this Country be attended with public benefit and Convenience and not with injury ; and on this point, your Petitioners will only refer to the recorded opinion of the Legislature in the Preamble of the Act of Incorporation before recited and to the fact, to which your Petitioners solicit Attention, that the Sum of twenty six Shillings was fixed in the Act as the lowest denomination of the Company's Notes not casually or

carelessly but after very full and serious deliberation with a view to the interests of the public and the Protection of the Provincial notes of twenty Shillings : and to the further fact that in reality, the small notes issued by Banks of a neighbouring Province are introduced into the Country to a large extent, and supply that demand for this kind of currency which is now forbidden to be supplied by paper issued and redeemable in specie within the Province.

Your Petitioners respectfully present notice to the Consideration that they appeal to your Honorable House on behalf of the Shareholders of the said Company in general and that the Capital invested in this Company includes the funds of Widows, Minors, Persons of small means and of those not interested in trade, whose rights depending upon the Act of Incorporation and the bye laws made in accordance with it , Your Petitioners conceive ought not to be affected by Considerations of a more limited or individual Character.

Your Petitioners respectfully conclude with praying the favorable consideration of the Honorable House to the subject now presented by your Petitioners with a view to the repeal of the Restrictions which prevent the issuing of notes and Bills for sums between twenty six Shillings and five pounds : and they

solicit from the favour of your Honorable House that this
their Prayer may not be rejected and that such Restrictions
may not be continued, without affording them an opportunity
of sustaining by Counsel at the Bar of Your Honorable House
the principles which your Petitioners have endeavoured to
advance, and which your Petitioners understand are the founda-
tion of the Rules by which Charters granted by Royal Authority
are held to be governed in England -

And as in duty bound

Your Petitioners will ever pray-

Halifax 8th February 1836.

Lewis Bliss

M. B. Almon

Alex. Murison

Jas. Leishman

W.H. Snelling

William Murdock

S.N. Binney

James Donaldson

Alex. Wallace

.... Bazalgette .

*Copy of
M. Murison
L.D. Grant*

945

RECEIVED
 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1836.

p.42.

~~B. of N.S. Debate on Petition - Petition for the~~
 8/2/36

Halifax, February 10, 1836.

Bank Petition - Small Notes.

Annually

Mr. Stewart said he held in his hand a Petition similar to those which he had presented to the House for several years past. It asked for a restoration of a privilege given to an Institution, by a Charter passed by the three Branches of the Legislature, and subsequently, and as he conceived, unjustly withdrawn. The House of course were omnipotent in this as in all other matters of Provincial legislation - they had the power to give or to withhold; but he put it to them, whether it was wise - whether it was just, to use the great powers they possessed capriciously, and to break a solemn charter given to any body of the people, and upon the faith of which they had invested their funds. To his own knowledge, Capitalists and others in New Brunswick, had taken stock in the Bank of Nova Scotia, upon

the

1836
 10 Feb

the faith of the charter which allowed them to issue paper as low as 26s. After the stock was subscribed, and the institution commenced business, that privilege was withdrawn. The House might now, as it had done on former occasions, reject the petition, but he would ask them whether it was just so to do. If they had the right to violate the charter and prevent them from issuing notes under £5, could they not raise the restriction to £100. He was well aware that the power was given to the Legislature to repeal their own acts - to withdraw their own gifts - and if need were, to work injury to individuals. But this power should only be exercised in cases of vast importance - when some great and overwhelming public exigency required that private rights and private interests should be sacrificed to the public good. It was for the House to consider whether this was such a case, particularly as the evil they were anxious to guard against was coming upon them from another quarter. The small notes issued by the four Banking Institutions of New Brunswick

~~were~~

were fast flowing into the Province and displacing the Province notes. In some of the Counties they formed the largest part of the circulation. It was impossible to restrain the circulation of these even by a penal statute. If they rejected the petition, they must try some method to prevent the New Brunswick Bank Notes interfering with our paper - and how they were to do it he could not divine. The petition was read by the Clerk - it was a long and well written statement of the Bank's case.

+ + + + + + + + + +

+ + + + + + + + + +

Mr. Huntington thought that a great deal of stress had been laid on the injury done to poor widows and orphans in the Petition, and there was a great deal of plausibility in the arguments used in favor of it; but he was one who voted for restricting the issues of the Banks to £5, and he remained of the same opinion still. He thought that Banks were a curse instead of an advantage to every Country where they existed - they only throve by a species of gambling - ~~their~~

their effects in this Province justified the observation; and would they - after all that had been done and suffered, go back to the old system, and allow the Country to be deluged with small notes again? he hoped not. It was true the House did pass the charter, but how was it done? nearly one third of the persons who voted for it were themselves interested in the Bank they labored to create - and they soon found the effects of the measure. It was said that another Bank was wanted to relieve the Country from difficulty, and yet a great number almost immediately failed, and many more were severely embarrassed. He therefore moved that the Petition be dismissed, which was seconded by Mr. Chipman.

Mr. Wilkins opposed the motion, and implored the House to repair what he considered a breach of Legislative faith, and undo an act which was a very unhappy one, to say the least of it. The Legislature had granted a charter on certain conditions - they had allowed persons to act under it, and had held out inducements to those to invest their

~~Capital~~

Capital, who would not have done so if they could have supposed that the privilege of issuing small notes would have been recalled. But, however hard it might bear upon individuals, the injustice to them was trifling, compared with the probable effects that would flow from such a precedent.

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

Mr. Young thought it would be well to consider whether there was any more weight in the argument now than there was formerly, when the restriction had been imposed. There were two motives governing the House on that occasion - the one was, to confine the issues of the Banks, as England had done, to notes of £5, in order that the lower strata of circulation might be filled up with the precious metals - the other was, to protect our province paper, of which we had an immense issue to the extent of £60,000. If they allowed the one Bank to circulate Notes as low as 30s, they could not

~~in~~

KN
in justice refuse the same advantage to the other; when the restriction passed, the only thing that made it ~~pallatable~~^{palatable} to the friends of the one Bank was the conviction that it would operate upon the other. Let this Petition now receive a favourable answer, and immediately, by the influence of both Banks, our Province Paper, which has been hoarded, will be forced out, and having been depreciated, an outcry will be made at once to compell us to fund it. If the House were prepared to do so it was well. But would it be wise when they were startled to see that there were no funds for internal improvement - that they had exhausted all their available resources, and incurred a new debt of £6332 - would it be politic to grant the prayer of the Petition, and enable the Banks to compell them to fund a further amount of the floating debt. If they did they would not be able to support the Local Government in the present mode. At a time when he could see no way out of these difficulties, he did not think that a movement of this kind would have been made. If they

~~did~~

did not dismiss the Petition, let Gentlemen pause, and put
their hands on their hearts, and say whether they would give
up the amount of interest which the Province Paper now
saved to the country, to put it into the pockets of the Bankers.

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+ + + + +

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

The question was then put, and the Petition dismissed, by an
overwhelming majority.

8/2/36.

⁹⁴⁵
~~N. S. 452.~~ Bank of Nova Scotia Petition

for restoration of privilege of issuing notes to under
5/0/0 - debate - petition dismissed.

Speakers: Stewart, presents petition - a matter of good faith.

Huntingdon - decries all banks.

Wilkins - faith.

Young - would ruin Province Paper.

(Petition follows).

REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION ACTS 1835
a. The Title of the Licence Duty Act, 5 Wm. IV, Cap. 19

An Act to continue and amend the Act for granting Duties
on Licenses for the Sale of Spirituous Liquors.

The Title of the General Duty Act, 5 Wm. IV. Cap. 34

An Act to continue an Act for the General Regulation of
the Colonial Duties.

The Title of the General Impost Duty Act, 5 Wm. IV, Cap. 50

An Act to continue and Act for granting Colonial Duties of Impost
for the support of His Majesty's Government within this Province
and for promoting the Agriculture, Commerce and Fishery thereof,
and in further addition to, and amendment of, the said Act.

The Title of the Appropriations Act, 5 Wm. IV, Cap. 9

An Act for applying certain Monies therein mentioned, for the Services of the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty-five, and for appropriating such part of the Supplies granted in this Session of the General Assembly as are not already appropriated by the Laws or Acts of the Province.

The Title of the Duty Drawback Act, 5 Wm. IV, Cap. 33

An Act to continue an Act concerning Goods Exported, and
for granting Drawbacks.

The Title of the Brown Sugar Duty Drawback Act, 5 Wm. IV, Cap. 36

An Act to continue the Acts for granting a Drawback of the Duties on Brown or Raw Sugar used in the manufacture of Refined Sugars within the Province and for regulating the mode of obtainign the same.

The Title of the Chocolate Bounty Act, 5 Wm. IV, Cap. 45

An Act to encourage the manufacture of Chocolate in
this Province by granting a Bounty thereon.

9/3/12/18/20

PROCEEDINGS ON VARIOUS CURRENCY BILLS 1835

MONDAY, 2d FEBRUARY, 1835.

.....
On motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the further consideration of the several Bills which stood committed.

.....
The Chairman reported from the Committee, that

.....
← the Committee had also gone through the Bill concerning the Currency of Nova-Scotia, and had made several amendments to the said Bill, which they had directed him to report to the House, and he afterwards delivered the Bill with the amendments in at the Clerk's Table.

The Chairman also acquainted the House, that he was directed by the Committee to move for leave to sit again on the consideration of Bills committed, which the House agreed to.

The amendments to the Bill concerning the Currency being read by the Clerk a first and second time,

Mr. Deblois moved, that the further consideration of the said Currency Bill and amendments be deferred until this day three months: which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, eleven; against it, nineteen.

.....
So it passed in the Negative.

The said amendments were then, upon the question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, That the Bill with the amendments be engrossed.

[Handwritten signature]

THURSDAY, 12th FEBRUARY, 1835.

.....
A Message from the Council, by Mr. Halliburton :

Mr. Speaker,

The Council have not agreed to the Bill, entitled,
An Act concerning the Currency of Nova-Scotia.

The Council have passed a Bill, entitled, An Act to
continue and amend an Act, passed in the Fourth year
of His present Majesty's Reign, entitled, An Act for
regulating the Currency of this Province, and further
to regulate the same, to which they desire the con-
currence of this Honorable House.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The said Bill from the Council was read a first time.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

FRIDAY, 13th FEBRUARY, 1835.

The engrossed Bill from the Council, entitled,
An Act to continue and amend an Act, passed in the
Fourth year of His present Majesty's Reign, entitled,
An Act for regulating the Currency of this Province,
and further to regulate the same, was read a second
time, and thereupon,

Mr. Fairbanks moved, that the further consideration
of said Bill be deferred to this day three months :
which, being seconded and put, and the house dividing
thereon, there appeared for the motion, seventeen;
against it nine:

.....
So it passed in the Affirmative.

FN#27

MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1835.

.....
An engrossed Bill to continue and amend the Act for regulating the Currency of this Province, was, pursuant to Order, read a third time; and thereupon,

Mr. Johnston moved, that the following Clause be added to the Bill by way of Rider, viz;—

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no greater or larger sum than Five Pounds Currency shall be legally tendered in payment of any one debt, in all or any of the Silver Coins mentioned in this Act, or the said Act hereby continued, if the Creditor or Party entitled to receive payment object thereto; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, eleven; against it, eight.

So it passed in the Affirmative.

Mr. C. Roche then moved, that the further consideration of the Bill be deferred to this day three months; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, three; against it, seventeen.

So it passed in the Negative.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass, and that the title be, An Act to continue and amend the Act for regulating the Currency of this Province.

Ordered, That the Clerk do carry the bills to the Council and desire their concurrence.

BNB
AA

ACT FOR FUNDING ADDITIONAL TREASURY NOTES 1835
a. House Resolves Not to Fund Treasury Notes at Present

Journals of Assembly,
N.E. 1830-36.

*Re Funding of Treasury Notes
- Not to be included in the
1834*

Thursday, 4th December, 1834.

p. 716.

Mr. Young moved that the House do come to a Resolution as followeth, viz:

Resolved, That the House consider it inexpedient during the present financial condition of the Province, to take any measures in this Session to fund the Treasury Notes now in circulation: which being seconded,

Mr. Deblois moved, as an amendment thereof, that all the words of the question after the words "Resolved, that" be left out, and that, instead thereof, the following be substituted "it is expedient to make provision for funding the Province Notes, or some part thereof; and that a Committee be appointed to devise the most economical method of doing so, and to report either by Bill or otherwise:" which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the amendment, nine; against it twenty-one.

.....

So it passed in the Negative.

Mr.

*1834
4 Dec.*

Mr. Johnston then moved, as another amendment to the question, to leave out all the words thereof except the words "Resolved, that" and, instead of the words so left to substitute the following, viz -

"A Committee be appointed to consider and report whether it is expedient to make provision for funding the Province Notes or some part thereof, and if expedient to choose the most economical method of doing so by Bill or otherwise: which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the amendment nine; against it, twenty-one. So it passed in the negative.

The question as originally moved being then put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, twenty-one; against it, ten.

.....

So it passed in the affirmative.

FOR THE NOVASCOTIAN.

Mr. Howe,

Sir - I have read with much attention the remarks which appeared in your last No. upon the propriety of withdrawing the Province paper, and although I do not concur in all the sentiments expressed by 'a Commoner', yet on the main question we are perfectly agreed.

The mischievous and ruinous consequences of an inconvertible paper currency, are now so well understood, both in theory and practice, that any arguments which might be advanced, would be wholly superfluous. The community are too well acquainted, by the best of arguments, experience, that an irredeemable paper is alike prejudicial to the welfare of society, and destructive of the commerce of the country. With these facts staring us in the face, it is somewhat strange, that so much apathy has been hitherto manifested, and so little exertion used to remedy an evil which on all sides is acknowledged to exist. I am happy to perceive that at length the people are awaking from their slumbers, and that public attention is now directed to this important subject. The House of Assembly while engaged in the great work of reform, will not, I hope, forget to begin at home, and reform the Provincial Currency. It is so generally admitted that an inconvertible paper is injurious, that the only question now for discussion seems to be the mode of withdrawing it. Some persons are of opinion that it would be better to fund it at once on the best terms

W. H. W.

that can be obtained - others are of opinion that the Banks should be compelled to take it at a reduced rate of interest - four per cent has been mentioned. Why the Banks should be forced to bear the burdens of the Province, I am at a loss to understand, but if the gentlemen at the head of these institutions are disposed to come forward and take the debt at 4 per cent, be it so. I for one would not object to it, because I am satisfied that in no other way can the Province ever get rid of the incumbrance on such favorable terms - and whether it be productive or unproductive to the Banks, is a matter of no moment to the community. All that we are desirous of attaining is a currency based upon the precious metals, so that every piece of paper we receive into our hands representing money, shall be convertible on demand into gold or silver. A piece of paper purporting to represent money, and yet redeemable in nothing, is absolutely worse than nothing, for it carries deception on the face of it. Either let the Banks be permitted to redeem their notes in paper, or let the Provincial notes be at once withdrawn - one or the other should be done. It is quite impossible that two descriptions of paper so opposite in their character can circulate together, or that the Province can ever flourish under the existing state of our currency. In vain are laws made for the promotion of Agriculture, the protection of the Fisheries, or the extension of commerce. In vain are duties imposed, or bounties given. So long as the currency remains in its present depreciated state, so long will disorder and confusion prevail.

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Now, Sir, what is the first step towards establishing a sound currency? Unquestionably, the removal of the Province Notes. It is absurd to talk of reforming the currency, with an issue of seventy thousand pounds of inconvertible paper yet in circulation. If then it be of so much importance, if upon the adoption of a sound currency depends, in any measure, the prosperity of the Province, let it become the subject of grave and serious deliberation. To relieve the country from its present embarrassed circumstances, to promote the happiness and welfare of the people is, I am sure, the earnest desire of every Member of the House of Assembly, and I am equally sure that when they return to their respective townships, it will afford them pleasure to reflect that in adjusting the currency, they have honourably provided for the Province Notes. Such a measure will be hailed with gratitude by their Constituents, and by every friend of the country. At present the Province paper is an obstacle in the way of trade - it deprives the poor man of a portion of his weekly earnings - it leads the rich man to withdraw his capital from a country where every article imported or consumed is indirectly taxed by the issue of an inconvertible paper - and which equally effects all ranks and classes of the people. Let us endeavour to preserve peace and harmony, but let us also endeavor by every constitutional means to promote the object we have in view - the attainment of a sound currency.

Jan. 19. [1835]

Senex.

~~THE NOVASCOTIAN~~ or ~~COLONIAL HERALD~~, January 22, 1835.

"Mercator" Desires Funding and Withdrawal of Treasury Notes

FOR THE NOVASCOTIAN.

Mr. Howe,

Sir - In persuing the columns of your valuable Journal, I observe that the attention of the public has lately been called to the subject of our Provincial currency. It is one of much importance, in which we are all interested, and deservedly claims our serious consideration.

The Province Notes, I do not doubt, were originally issued with the best motives and intentions, and for a time answered our purposes; but with years circumstances have changed, and they are no longer suitable to our wants and necessities. It has been gravely said in high places, that being issued as tokens, they were never intended to be redeemed, and therefore ought not to be withdrawn. If this be the determination of the House, let it be proclaimed through the length and breadth of the land - let it once be known, that the Province Notes are never to be redeemed, and there will be raised a spirit of murmur and discontent which will shake society to its very foundations. Such a doctrine might have been advanced with impunity in the time of John Law or the French Assignats, but in these enlightened days no such doctrine will be tolerated for a moment. The people of Nova Scotia are too well informed, not to understand that the prosperity of their country is intimately connected with the soundness of the currency. Having succeeded in removing the inconvertible Bank Notes, shall we now abandon the principles for which we have been contending? Shall we perpetuate the evil by supporting another description

of inconvertible paper ? It is not only in making payments at the Banks that inconvenience is found - witness the case which occurred the other day - a gentleman with £1500 in his possession was unable to discharge a Mortgage, until he had first converted the Notes into Gold, at what rate of discount, I do not know - but presume that so large a sum could not have been exchanged without some consideration. The inconvenience is now become so general and so loudly complained of, that I hope, before the Session closes, measures will be adopted to protect the paper and relieve us from the difficulties with which we are threatened. If, unfortunately, nothing is done, it will then remain for the community to decide upon what course shall be pursued, and by some strong expression of public opinion, to declare their unqualified disapprobation of an inconvertible paper currency. Whether it shall be put at five or ten per cent discount will be for them to determine; at whatever rate they may fix, the Notes will be received and paid - no one is compelled to take them at twenty shillings - that question has been lately settled in the Court of Chancery, I should be sorry to see the paper passing at eighteen or nineteen shillings, but there is no alternative, and it appears to me that unless provision is made by the Legislature nothing can prevent it. What may be the financial condition of the Province next year, I leave to others to form their own opinion; but if we can give £8000 for roads and bridges, £2000 for the Quit Rents, and £40,000 for the Civil List, we can surely afford a small sum to support the credit of the Province paper. Those only who are actively engaged in business, are aware of the loss and inconvenience which results from the present system, and must

A34

always be experienced while an inconvertible paper is continued among us. It will be impossible for the Legislature to determine in what way the Notes shall be withdrawn, whether through the Excise Office, or by any other mode, but that something should be done is, I believe, the earnest wish of every individual in the community. The past year has been one of great distress, and unless measures are speedily adopted, I apprehend the consequences will be severely felt, both in town and country.

Jan. 26. [1835]

Mercator.

~~THE NOVASCOTIAN, or COLONIAL HERALD. January 29, 1835.~~

Halifax Merchants ask that Treasury Notes be Gradually Withdrawn and in Meantime made Legal Tender

~~Treasury Notes~~

31/1/35

Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

Saturday, 31st January, 1835.

p. 825.

.....

A Petition of Messrs S. Cunard & Co. and others, Merchants, Traders and other Inhabitants of Halifax, was presented by Mr. Deblois and read, praying that certain proportions of the Provincial Treasury Notes, now in circulation, be withdrawn at stated periods, and that, until an adequate proportion of the Provincial Notes are redeemed, they shall and may be legally tendered by or to the Provincial Treasurer or other Public Officers, or by, or to, any Body, Politic or Corporate, or Person whomsoever, in payment of Debts, &c.

~~Ordered, That the Petition do lie on the Table.~~

To the Honorable the House of Assembly now convened, - The
 Petition of the undersigned, Merchants, Traders and others, -

Humbly Sheweth,

That owing to the embarrassments which now exist in this community and which in consequence of the refusal of the Banking Institutions and other parties to deal in Treasury Notes will ere long be seriously increased. - Petitioners are induced to come before Your Honorable House in the hope that you will afford them such relief as in your Wisdom you may deem expedient.

YOUR PETITIONERS feel satisfied that unless some provision be made by Bill for the redemption of the Treasury Notes, their value must be materially depreciated, and they would humbly suggest that certain proportions of the Notes now in circulation be withdrawn at stated periods. And that until an adequate proportion of the Provincial Notes

are redeemed, they shall and may be legally tendered by or to the
Provincial Treasurer or other public Officers or by or to any body
Politie or Corporate or persons whomsoever^e, in payment or satisfaction
of any debt liabilities or demands whatsoever. And your Petitioners,
as in duty bound will ever pray -

Halifax, 51st January 1835.

Correct
In Witness
L. D. Grant

House Proceedings on the Treasury Note Funding Bill

9157/116
N 5476
Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

Bill for funding £10,000 of Treasury Notes
to be placed
4/2/35

Monday, 9th February, 1835.

.....

On motion the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on consideration of the General State of the Province, in relation to the Provincial Treasury Notes.

1835
9 Feb

~~Mr. Speaker left the Chair.~~

~~Mr. Rudolph took the Chair,~~

~~Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.~~

The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had considered the business to them referred, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows, viz: -

Whereas, by the report of the Committee for examining the Public Accounts, it appears that £68,499 10s. Treasury Notes have been issued, and are now in circulation; and whereas,
apprehensions

apprehensions are entertained, in consequence of the refusal of the Banking Institutions of Halifax to receive the said Notes, and from other causes, that the free circulation of the said Notes will be seriously diminished, to the great injury of Commerce, and of the Provincial Credit, unless the amount of the said Notes be largely reduced:

Resolved therefore, That, in addition to the sum of £20,000 already provided to be Funded under the Act concerning Treasury Notes, passed in 1833, at four per cent. provision be made for Funding the sum of Ten Thousand Pounds in the said Notes.

Mr. Young then moved, that the Resolution reported from the Committee be not received by this House; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, ten; against it, twenty-four;

.....

So it passed in the Negative. *E*

p. 850.

The said Resolution was then, upon the question put ~~thereupon~~

thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, That Mr. Stewart, Mr. Uniacke, Mr. Deblois, Mr. Fairbanks and Mr. Freeman, be a Select Committee to prepare and report to this House a Bill to carry the said Resolution into effect.

916

W. C. Hunt *4/2/35*

Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

Wednesday, 11th February, 1835.

.....

p. 853.

Bill passed
copy 22. 5. 1835
1835
11/2/35

An engrossed Bill in amendment of, and in addition to, an Act, entitled, An Act concerning Treasury Notes, was read a third time, and thereupon,

Mr. Huntington moved that the following enacting Clause and Preamble be added to the Bill by way of Rider, viz:

And whereas, notwithstanding the prohibition against the issuing of Promissory Notes, made for a less sum than £5, great numbers of Notes of that description, purporting to be Bank Notes, are passing current from hand to hand to the great detriment of the free circulation of the Provincial Treasury Notes - for remedy thereof -

Be it further enacted, That, from and after the first day of August next, no Person or Persons whosoever, shall circulate, or give or receive in payment or otherwise, any such Note or Notes, made, or purporting on the face thereof to be made, for any sum less than Five Pounds, except in offering

the

the same for payment at the Bank, or Institution where the same may be made payable, under a penalty of Five Pounds for each and every offence, to be recovered from the offender before any two Justices of the Peace as a Debt, with Costs of Suit, by and in the name of any Person who will sue for the same; one half of the penalty to be paid to the Person suing for the same, and the other half to the Overseers of the Poor for the use of the Poor of the Township or Settlement wherein the offence may have been committed. Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be applied, to the Provincial Treasury Notes: which being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, twelve; against it, seventeen.

.....

So it passed in the negative.

Resolved
Resolved, That the Bill do pass, and that the title be, An Act in amendment of, and in addition to, an Act, entitled, An Act concerning Treasury Notes.

~~Ordered~~

Ordered, That the Clerk do carry the Bill to the Council and desire their concurrence.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS RE: THE COLLECTION OF DUTIES IN STERLING

~~Part of Duties in ity proposed to be discontinued~~

~~1830 - 1836.~~
N.S. JOURNALS,
1830 - 1836.

p. 7 2 5
WEDNESDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 1834.

1834
10 Dec.

.....
The Order of the Day for considering the Currency, in
Committee of the whole House, on the General State of the
Province, being read,

The House resolved itself into said Committee.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair,

Mr. Rudolf took the Chair,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they
had made some progress in the business referred to
them, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which
they had directed him to report to the house, and he
read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered
it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was read, and is
as follows :

Resolved

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Committee, the Colonial Duties of Impost and Excise shall continue to be raised, collected and paid, in Sterling Monies.

The Chairman also acquainted the House, that he was directed by the Committee to move for leave to sit again, on the consideration of the matters referred to them - which the House agreed to.

Mr. Uniacke moved that the Resolution reported from the Committee, be not received by the House : which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, eighteen; against it, seventeen. So it passed in the affirmative.

SATURDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1835.

Mr. Fairbanks reported from the Select Committee appointed to prepare and bring in Revenue Bills; and thereupon, presented to the House,

A Bill to continue an Act for granting Colonial Duties of Impost for the support of his Majesty's Government within this Province, and for promoting the Agriculture, Commerce and Fisheries thereof, and in further addition to, and in amendment of, the said Act.

A Bill to continue an Act for the Warehousing of Goods, and in amendment thereof.

A Bill to continue and amend an Act for regulating the Importation of Goods.

A Bill to continue an Act concerning Goods exported and for granting Drawbacks.

A Bill to continue an Act for the general regulation of the Colonial Duties.

A Bill to continue and amend an Act for the prevention of Smuggling.

And the said Bills were severally read a first time; whereupon,

Mr. Deblois moved, that the house do come to the two following Resolutions, viz:-

Resolved, That the several Bills for continuing an Act for granting Colonial Duties; continuing an Act relating to Importation of Goods; to continue an Act for Warehousing Goods; to continue the Act respecting Drawbacks; and to continue an Act for the General Regulation of the Colonial Duties, be severally recommitted to the Committee appointed to prepare the same, with instructions to re-model the said several Bills, so that the Colonial Duties may be raised, collected, secured and paid, to the several Collectors of Impost in this Province

Province, in addition to, and independent of, and without reference to, any Duties imposed under an Act of the Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th year of his present Majesty's Reign, entitled, An Act to regulate the Trade of the British Possessions Abroad.

Resolved, That the Committee be instructed to compute the present Sterling Rate of Duties, in Halifax Currency, by adding one fourth thereto, and that the value of Goods, invoiced in Sterling Money, shall be deemed to be at and after the same rate, viz:- In proportion of One Hundred and Twenty-five Pounds Currency, for One Hundred Pounds Sterling; which motion being seconded,

The first Resolution was put, and the house dividing thereon, there appeared for the Resolution, sixteen; against it, nineteen.

.....

~~So~~

So it passed in the Negative.

The other Resolution was then, by leave of the House, withdrawn by Mr. Deblois.

PROCEEDINGS RE: SILVER COIN IN THE TREASURY 1835
a. Legislature Attempts to Form Committee to Consider Disposal of Silver
Coin in the Treasury

/110

N.S. JOURNALS,
 1830 - 1836

~~p. 872~~
WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 1835.

.....

Mr. Lawson moved, that the house do come to a
 Resolution as followeth, viz:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed on the
 General State of the Province, to meet a Committee of
 His Majesty's Council, on the subject of the Silver
 Coin in the Treasury, to consider of the best mode of
 disposing of it ; which, being seconded and put, and
 the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the
 motion, seven; against it, eleven.

So it passed in the Negative.

1835
 18 Feb

Treasurer Asks Lt. Gov. how to Dispose of Silver Coin in the Treasury~~PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA~~~~MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS~~~~VOL, 237 -~~~~Document No. 154,~~

Halifax 27th February 1835.

Sir .

I beg leave to state, for the information of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, that during the Year of 1834 there was paid into the Treasury the Sum of £3,000 Sterling of British Silver in Crown, and half Crown pieces, which I credited the Province with, at the rate of 25/. Currency for each 20/. Sterling ; and being unable to dispose of it, but at the current rate of 24/. I have to request that His Excellency will be pleased to give me such instructions, as he may deem fit, for my guidance.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

Sir Rupert D. George Bart,
Provincial Secretary
&c, &c,

Charles W. Wallace
Treasurer

Copy
W. Wallace
L. D. Grant

Treasurer Advises Lt. Gov. that there are not Enough Notes in the Treasury to
Pay Warrants

~~PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA~~

~~MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS~~

~~VOL, 237~~

~~Doc, No, 155~~

1829 - 1835.

Treasurers Office

Halifax 28th March 1835,

Sir

I have the honor to state for the Information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor that the Payments now made into the Treasury consists of Gold and Silver Coins, and as the Law prohibits my paying such monies, but in exchange for Province Notes and as there are not now in the Treasury Provincial Notes to meet the Warrants in course of payment. I have to request, His Excellency will be pleased to give me such instructions, as he may deem fit.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

Sir Rupert D. George Bart.

Charles W. Wallace

Wm. Cameron & Co. & Co.

Printed
Wm. Cameron & Co. & Co.
L. J. [Signature]

1835
28 March

RA

Reply to the
[Signature]

925

Specie in the Treasury March, 1835

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA

MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS,

1829 - 1835.

Vol. 237 - Document No. 156

Statement of Specie remaining in the Province
Treasury on the 30th March 1835.

Description of Coin	Sterling	Currency
Half Crowns Half Crowns	1556 - -	1867 - -
Quarter Crowns ^{Half} Quarter Crowns	115 - -	143 15 -
Dollars	277 - -	319 - -
Dobloons & parts	- - -	3200 - -
	Currency	£5529 15 -

Treasurers Office

Halifax 30th March 1835.

Copyed
M. Ammiral
L. D. Grant
Charles W. Wallace

Treasurer.

Insufficient Specie in Treasury to Redeem Treasury Notes~~Public Records of Nova Scotia~~ 11/7/1835~~Manuscript Documents~~Vol. 237 - Doc. No. 173,
1829 - 1835 .

Treasurers Office

Halifax 11th April 1835.

Sir

I beg leave to state for the information of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, that Mr. James Tremain has this day presented at the Treasury Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred pounds in Province Notes, for which he has demanded Specie or Stock Certificates and as there is but £4000 to meet such demands. I have to request that His Excellency will be pleased to give such instructions as he may deem necessary.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your Obedient Servant

Sir R. D. George Bart.
Secretary of the Province

Charles W. Wallace

Treas'r

&c. &c.

1835
11 April

REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION ACTS 1836

a. The Title of the Impost Duty Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 32

An Act for granting Colonial Duties for the support of His Majesty's Government within this Province and for promoting the Agriculture, Commerce and Fishery thereof.

The Title of the Licence Duty Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 35

An Act for granting Duties on Licences for the Sale of Spirituous
Liquors, in Taverns, Public Houses or Shops and for other purposes.

The Title of the Light House Duty Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 62

An Act to continue the Act for the support and regulation of
Light-Houses.

The Title of the Appropriations Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 1

An Act for applying certain Monies mentioned for the service
of the Year of Our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty-
six and for appropriating such part of the Supplies granted in this
Session of the General Assembly as are not already appropriated
by the Laws or Acts of the Province.

The Title of the Duty Drawback Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 36

An Act to continue and amend the Act concerning goods Exported
and for granting Drawbacks.

The Title of the Brown Sugar Duty Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 37

An Act to continue the Acts for granting a Drawback of the Duties
on Brown or Raw Sugar used in the manufacture of Refined Sugars
within the Province, and for regulating the mode of obtaining same.

The Title of the Chocolate Bounty Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 61

An Act to continue the Act to encourage the manufacture of
chocolate in this Province, by granting a Bounty thereon.

The Title of the Tobacco Bounty Act, 6 Wm. IV, Cap. 84

An Act to continue the Act to encourage the manufacture of
Tobacco in this Province, by granting a Bounty thereon.

840

THE TITLE OF THE BORROWING ACT OF 1836, 6 Wm. IV, CAP. 75

An Act for borrowing Money for the use of the Province.

931/34/35

House Resolutions on Currency and the Editorial Coverage
of the Debates Thereon

~~1836~~

~~1836~~

~~1836~~
N.S. JOURNALS
~~1830 - 1836~~

~~1836~~

MONDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1836.

1836
25 Jan

.....

On motion of Mr. Morton the house resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the General State of the Province, to consider the Currency.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair,

Mr. Morton took the Chair,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had made some progress in the business referred to them, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the house, and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows :

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that British Sterling ought to be the Money of Account in this Province.

Wednesday, 27th January, 1836.

.....
The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the General State of the Province, to consider further of the Currency.

.....
The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had made further progress in the business to them referred, and had come to another Resolution thereon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that Debts, contracted before any Act to be passed under this and the Resolution passed on Monday last, on the subject of making British Sterling the Money of Account in this Province, shall go into operation, when the same are paid in British Sterling, one fifth shall be deducted from the amount, and this rule should be adopted for converting Currency into Sterling, shall also be applied to Salaries, Fees, the Public Debt, and all obligations.

The Chairman also acquainted the House that he was directed by the Committee to ask for leave to sit again on the consideration of the same subject, which the House agreed to.

The said Resolution was again read by the Clerk, and, upon the usual question being put by the Speaker, that the House do agree to the same, the House dividing, there appeared, for agreeing to the Resolution, sixteen; against it, eleven.

.....

Thursday, 28th January, 1836.

.....
The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the business to them referred, and had come to two further Resolutions on the subject, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered them in at the Clerk's Table, where they were again read, and are as follow: -

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Province Note shall be and be deemed to be, of the value of Sixteen Shillings, in British Sterling.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that British Silver shall be a tender to the extent of One Hundred pieces, and British and Provincial Copper Coins, to the extent of Twelve Pence only.

The said Resolutions being again read by the Clerk, were, upon the question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Mr. Stewart moved, that a Select Committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill in accordance with the several Resolutions reported from the Committee of the whole House, and agreed to on the subject of the Currency: which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion, eighteen; against it, thirteen.

.....
So it passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered, That Mr. Stewart, Mr. Young, Mr. Huntington, Mr. Creighton and Mr. Bell, be a Committee for the above purpose.

932/23/37/36/38

~~Handwritten scribbles~~

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~~The Novascotian
or
Colonial Herald.
1836.~~

~~Re Adoption of British Standard~~

Halifax, January 27, 1836.

p. 39.

THE LEGISLATURE.- The House of Assembly are getting rapidly into business. The first debate of any consequence occurred on Monday. This, as it relates to a subject of great importance, though of no great novelty, we intend to report at full length. More than half the speeches appear in this sheet, the remainder we shall give in our next. There appears to be a very general disposition in the House and out of it, to fix British sterling as our Standard of value and money of account - a measure recommended by the Currency Committee appointed by the Town meeting in 1833, - for the want of which all persons in business have since suffered enough - and now rendered indispensable by the frequent and arbitrary fluctuations created by money changers and others in the value of nearly all our current coins. Petitions to the three Branches, signed by some eighty or a hundred persons - among whom are many of the shrewdest and most disinterested

of

~~Handwritten scribbles~~
1836
27 Jan

our mercantile men, will probably be presented in a few days. We would gladly contribute our mite to the good cause, by answering some of the unsound arguments used by the opponents of this measure in the speeches we have just written out. It is amusing to hear those who formerly denounced the establishment of dollars and doubloons as the bases of our currency, and who insisted that we could not procure them, and that the Banks could never operate under such a system, now using the same arguments against British coins, and asking for the re-establishment of old Halifax currency, and the adoption of the dollar and doubloon. But we have neither leisure to write nor space to print our own thoughts on the subject - one observation, however, we may hazard, and we hope all those having a voice in the matter will ponder it deeply. The wealthy money dealer, has a direct interest in having nothing fixed, because he can avail himself of every natural or every unnatural fluctuation - while the great body of the People have an interest as direct in having something fixed, no matter what it is. Mr. Stewart's first Resolution was carried by a large majority - the second occupied the House till a late hour yesterday, when it adjourned without coming to a decision.

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The Novascotian
or
Colonial Herald.
1836.

p.26.

*Debate on the question of adopting British
sterling standard.*
Halifax, January 27, 1836.

The Currency - British Sterling.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the whole, Mr. Morton in the chair, to consider the old subject of the Currency - when a string of Resolutions was offered by Mr. Stewart - and the question upon the first, which went to establish British Sterling, as the standard of value and money of account in this Province, having been put:

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Mr. Lawson wanted to know from the gentleman who moved the Resolution what he called sterling. When he spoke of sterling he meant old Halifax currency, adding a ninth and deducting a tenth. In Newfoundland, formerly they had 90 day Bills, passing and repassing from hand to hand, for sums as small as 20s - he had often had numbers of them. So

~~they~~

they continued until dollars became abundant, and then they adopted them, as the basis of their currency. Those passed at 5s. and have so continued until the present time. This was our former Halifax currency - but now we in fact had none - there was no legal tender. He did not understand what the learned member from Cumberland meant by adding a 5th and deducting a 4th. The effect of such a system would be to subject a Judge to a clear loss of £66. The change from currency to sterling could not, if properly adjusted, make any alteration in the payment of debts - though it might in the price of Bills. He should vote for the Resolution - but when he came to the other, which went to fix the proportions, he should contend for that which formerly existed between Sterling and old Halifax currency.

Mr. Deblois was in hopes to have heard the friends of this measure state some of the advantages to be derived from its adoption. It was true they might alter the name, but there would be no real advantage. We cannot coin British

~~money~~

money, but must bring it from that country in which it is coined. Suppose you make it a legal tender, where are you to get it in sufficient quantities to conduct the business of the country? The greater part of what we have, is brought here for the payment of the troops - we have no other source of supply. The whole amount in the country does not exceed £70,000 - and that is perhaps a large calculation - while our imports from Britain alone, and for which we must pay in something, are £500,000. It is said that by this change you will reduce Bills to par, or to a premium only of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. because the Commissary is bound to give them to you at that rate. But where is the money to come from to purchase these bills - where will A.B. or C. get the British Coins to pay into the Commissariat? will they not have to purchase them at a premium? - and if this, as it probably will, amounts to 10 or 12 per cent, shall we be any better off than we are now? It is said the British Government are anxious to have the change made, and they will send them out to us. No doubt they

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will so long as they find it profitable, but no longer. Already a change is talked of - and I understand that a Commissary is now in South America, contracting for supplies of Spanish and Mexican dollars to pay the Troops on foreign stations. The old Halifax currency is a sound currency - well understood in the other Colonies; and in the United States, ~~the~~ \$444 are recognized as equal to £100 sterling. On a former occasion, when this subject was discussed, it was understood that we would make the change when it was made by the other Colonies - but have any of them made it? If we do it alone, it will be merely a change of names. It has been said by some that the slave compensation monies are to be paid in British Coins - but will they come here, unless we send something to buy them with? - and if they do not, will this be more than a mere nominal change - and is it worth our while, for an advantage so trifling, or for no advantage, to disarrange the whole business of the country? If a demand is now sent from England, for me to collect, I call for payment in

18 sterling shillings to the pound, and then calculate the premium of remittance. There is no difficulty in resolving currency into sterling, or sterling into currency. I am not perhaps prepared to say so much on this subject just now as I can, but I am aware that great misapprehensions are entertained of it, both in and out of the House; and if these Resolutions pass, there will, by and by, be an outcry that the people have been half ruined by the change. The price of every article will be advanced upon the people; will goods fall in the same proportion to the nominal rise in the Coins? No, Sir, they will not - for weeks and months and years. This is business - and the loss will fall, not on the rich, but on the poor. I have been opposed to this change from first to last, and am still opposed.

My wish two years ago was to make British coins legal tenders at certain rates - fixing the doubloon at £4, and the British silver at 23s.4d. All the parts would then be relatively rated. They would then be on a par of ~~ex~~

~~change~~

exchange with all the other Colonies. The Sovereign, which is perhaps worth a little more, I would put at 24s. or 24s.3d. then if persons could not get sovereigns when they wanted them, they would have to pay a little more than the value of the silver, but not much. I was opposed to raising the money for the purposes of change - I saw what would be the result. Upon that alteration all our mistakes were founded. The loss by the scheme I propose will be merely ideal. When the late act expired, I was informed by a member of the Halifax Bank, that that Institution had £7000 of British silver on hand. They sent it to the Commissariat to buy bills, and submitted to the loss. The other Bank had a considerable quantity, and I presume did the same.

Mr. Cochran had taken some pains to inform himself upon this subject, but the more he enquired the more he felt at a loss. If we have now depressed the coins below their value, why should we run to the other extreme; and raise them above it? If we adopt Sterling, we shall be legislating for

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the Bankers and monied monopolists of Halifax. Not one shilling of it would ever find its way into the Country.

Mr. Huntington denied that the measure would have any such effect. All Countries had some standard of value, and they might if they pleased take any saleable Commodity and measure money and every thing else by that - no matter what it was. Coins will always pass according to their value in the general market of the world, which is regulated by the quantity of gold or silver they contain. So long as you adopt a fair rule of conversion, no difficulty can arise - no injustice can be done. From our earliest infancy we are taught to reduce every thing to pounds, shillings, and pence. We now count them in Currency, and if we adopt Sterling, we shall just have as many of them as we are able to buy. It is impossible for us to go back to old Halifax Currency, for there is now no such thing in existence. The relative values of gold and silver have been changed by British enactments, since that was our standard - and both the doubloon and ~~Brit~~

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British silver have been raised by common consent, and the sanction of this Legislature. We cannot undo what has been done here nor at home; and, therefore, we must adapt our standard to our present situation. The Spanish Dollar, which was the basis of old Halifax currency, is becoming scarce, as the Spanish and Portuguese have lost the possession of the Mines - and the Mexican Dollar, which was formerly less esteemed, is coming up. The South American Doubloon has also come up to a higher relative proportion with dollars and cents, as the Spanish Doubloon has disappeared. It is plain therefore, that every element of our old Halifax Currency is in a state of constant fluctuation. As to persons sustaining any actual loss by changing currency into sterling, there can be no real danger of that - there will only be a nominal rise of prices. The matter will be soon perfectly well understood - whereas, if you continue to base your currency, as some gentlemen wish, on the price of Bills of Exchange, it will be rising and falling every day. If you wish

to act wisely, measure every commodity by a standard which is permanent and easily understood, not by a rule that is purely ideal and liable to constant fluctuations.

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Mr. Young thought it would be time enough to go into the details of the plan when the other resolution came to be discussed. The two questions before the Committee were, shall we or shall we not have a standard of value? If that were decided in the affirmative, then they must determine what that standard should be. What coin - of what Country? And these were plain practical questions. The moment our law expired, fixing the British shillings at 1s 3d, all was in confusion. It is plain, therefore, that we must have a standard - and provided we have one, fixed and immutable, it is of little consequence what we have. I have never heard clearer views of this subject delivered on the floor of the House, than those given by the Hon. Gentleman from the County

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of Shelburne, Mr. Huntingdon. Fix the Sovereign, the Doubloon, or the Guinea, and all other Coins will fluctuate round it. Even if the Gold, of which it is composed, falls in value, the virtue of the standard is still preserved, because it falls in the same proportion in the general market of the world.

If this be clearly understood, it enters into the very essence of this debate. I am satisfied then that we ought to have a standard - Shall we have any other than that coin which is stamped, and issued and guaranteed, by the mighty Empire of which we form a part, and over which the highest order of science presides? We have this as a pledge of its weight and purity - and the faith of the British Government, as a security for its stability and redemption. Formerly the American Eagle contained too large a proportion of gold - of late they have been recoin'd, and that portion taken off? If there be, at any future time, any cause disturbing the relative values of the gold and silver in the British

~~coins~~

And the question at once occurs, what standard?

coins, the mother government would immediately do the same. This is the advantage of taking the pound sterling for our standard. But it is said that we can have nothing fixed, because the exchange will rise and fall with the demand. It is true that Bills of Exchange may fluctuate, but the coins cannot. If, then, these are the opinions of a majority of the Committee, let us go to sterling at once. The next difficulty is as to the rate at which the conversion is to take place. Some, it would appear, are ready to vote against the measure, because there are fears pressing upon their minds, that if we adopt sterling as the money of account, and measure of value, we shall raise the salaries of public officers, and of all other debts, public and private. But we shall not do that - if an officer gets now £400, or the Chief Justice gets £850 sterling, the question for us to decide will be, how much is that worth in currency at the present time - and whatever it is really worth, let that be paid. Those who are now paid in sterling receive the money in dollars at 4s.4d.

~~and~~

and of course they dispose of these in the market for whatever they will bring. If we fix the proportions fairly, and establish them by law, there can be no difficulty. If I thought that by any insidious mode, or perversion of the rule of conversion, the learned member wished or intended to pay these officers more I should vote against him - but that cannot be the case. The Bill will no doubt carefully provide that justice shall be done to all parties. I will appeal to all who hear me, and ask, if even we adopt the proposition formerly made by the Master of the Rolls, and make the £100 Sterling equal to £125 Currency, could there be any injustice, if we paid officers in the one instead of the other? I would proceed no further than in rating the British Coins - I would neither fix the dollar - nor the doubloon - let them fluctuate according to the demand. If we can fix the British Coins by a decided majority there can be no difficulty. In opposing the Resolution, with a view to bring back old Halifax Currency, Gentlemen will be acting as wisely as if they

~~attempted~~

attempted to build a stately fabric on the moveable surface of a lake. The first breeze that ruffles the waters, disturbs that on which the building is to rest - and to erect a permanent structure on such an unsubstantial foundation, would be the extreme of madness. So if we base our currency upon a thing which is in itself unstable, we shall be subject to eternal fluctuations. As we have no mint and no coinage of our own, let us adopt the standard fixed by our Mother Country, and for which her interest and her honor are pledged to mankind.

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Halifax, February 4, 1836.

CURRENCY QUESTION.

Mr. Uniacke

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Why should we have a Standard different from the other Colonies? Will they follow our example? will the people of New Brunswick, who once raised the Dollar to 5s3d and were glad to retrace their steps - will they turn round and follow out our visions of a standard which rarely appears among us? Trade will not bring British Coins here - and when the Deputy Commissary General was examined before our famous currency Committee, he told us that no doubt the British Government would, if remunerated for the trouble, send us out British Coins, if they should be required. By this

Resolution we call on every ignorant man in the country, to settle the value of the principal coins in which he is to deal; let any member go to the country market now, and see how it operates. Some value the dollar at 5s2d. others at 5s1d. others at only 5s, the same difference of opinion prevails with respect to the 3s. piece - the countryman is forced to take it at 3s1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. but when he goes to buy some supplies for his old woman at home, the merchant will only give 3s. for it. This was palpable to the New Brunswick Legislature - and now all coins are based there upon the English Exchange of the 9th and 10th, which is understood all over America. I am in favor of the change if you tell me what is meant - and if that conforms to the standard of all the other Colonies. That your currency has been and is rotten to the core, there can be no doubt. But what it is to be is now the question - if we fix any, it will be better to fix them all, but if you merely take a coin which is not, and cannot be in free circulation, and think to make that your standard by adding and ~~deducting~~

a crucible or a ready reckoner to ascertain the value of the foreign coin in which he deals. If a countryman receives $\frac{1}{4}$ of a doubloon he must find out the value of it measured by the Sovereign. In England it is different, a man cannot take out a dollar or a doubloon in Regent Street to pay for an article - when I first went to England I found this to be the case; all their transactions are contracted in Sovereigns and Bank Notes, and foreign coins are bought and sold as bullion. Here they make up so large a portion of our circulation that it might be extremely difficult to confine ourselves exclusively to British coins. Let us therefore have a scale to guide all men in reference to all the monies usually current in the country. The mistakes of the past, however, have brought our currency into such a vicious state that something must be done. At present it is almost impossible to make a man in England understand how it happens that the premium on remittance is so high. But the time has arrived when a vicious and uncertain system must be got rid of, and

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when certainty and permanence must be given to what is the common measure of value.

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deducting $\frac{1}{4}$ th and 1-5th, we shall but perpetuate the same rotten system that we have always had.

Mr. Huntington said, that the effect of the learned gentleman's plan would be to make a man who owed £100 currency to the bank pay it with £90 Sterling, instead of £80.

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The Speaker

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There was one difficulty which occurred to his mind in adopting the change from Currency to Sterling, and it was whether the relative value of foreign coins - or those which generally circulated - ought not to be fixed also, and if so at what rates. It may be very well in theory to have but one coin as the standard, but in practice it may be extremely difficult, for every man must carry

1836
The Novascotian
or
Colonial Herald.
1836.

p. 34.

Redemption of British Sterling
25/1/36
Halifax, February 4, 1836.

The Currency - British Sterling.

*1836
14/2/36*
A Petition, of which the following is a copy, was then presented by Mr. Bell, and having been read, together with the names of the signers, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to consider further of the currency.

To The Honorable the House of Assembly now in Session.

The Petition of the undersigned Merchants, and inhabitants of the Town of Halifax, humbly sheweth:-

That your Petitioners have viewed with extreme regret, the failure of repeated attempts to settle the Currency of the Province upon a sound and permanent basis, and that the temporary enactments framed for that purpose have hitherto proved totally inadequate to remedy the difficulties and inconveniences of which they now complain.

Year

Your Petitioners need scarcely remind your Honorable House of the fluctuations to which the Mexican Dollar was subject not long since, and of the uncertain value at present of the British shilling, verrying as it does, in different parts of the Province, from one shilling to one and three pence Currency; but they feel desirous to bring these facts again particularly to your notice, in the hope that your honorable House will, without delay, apply a sound and effectual remedy, and thus preserve the poorer classes from the serious losses to which they must be subject, as long as the Currency remains in this unsettled state.

Your Petitioners are disinclined to trouble your Honourable House with many observations on a subject that has already undergone so much discussion, yet they cannot avoid the expression of their firm and decided conviction, that the only effectual remedy for the inconvenience they complain of, is the early adoption of British Sterling as the money of account of this Province, ascertaining the true

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relation it bears to the present Currency, according to the actual Sterling value of the Patriot Doubloon, on which the latter is founded - reserving, however, to the creditor the option of demanding payment of all existing obligations in that coin only at the rate of four pounds of the Currency in which they were contracted.

Your Petitioners cannot refrain from adding, that among the many benefits to be derived from the adoption of British Sterling, are the following: a favorite object of His Majesty's Government would be attained; all foreigners would clearly comprehend the value of our Currency; disputes growing out of the present fallacious system of converting Sterling into Currency, would be avoided, in determining the sums to be paid here for Goods purchased on Great Britain, for protested Bills of Exchange, and in policies of Insurance; the uncertainty now existing as to what constitutes a legal tender, would be at an end; the poor and ignorant would be less liable to imposition; and finally, the beneficial ~~eff-~~

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effects naturally resulting from the conviction of the people, that they may with confidence appeal to their representatives when they desire a law, having for its object not only the protection of their property, but the distribution of equal justice to all classes of community

Your Petitioners, therefore, respectfully but urgently solicit the immediate attention of your Honorable House to this important subject, as they feel assured, notwithstanding every objection urged against it, that the measure now prayed for would prove highly satisfactory to a great majority of the people; and that the force of public opinion is daily accumulating in favor of this mode of setting at rest a long agitated and troublesome question. And your petitioners, as in duty bound will ever pray.

A debate then commenced, which dragged its slow length along through this and the following day. All the topics urged on Monday were gone over again and again. We do not think it necessary to report this discussion - as but

~~little~~

little was said that was new, and a great deal that was sufficiently tiresome; we shall content ourselves therefore with giving an abstract of the arguments used by the two contending parties. The Resolutions at first went to fix the payment of past obligations at 16 British Shillings for the pound currency. To this it was objected, that creditors who had lent their money in doubloons - or had sold their property, expecting to be paid in that Coin, which had for fifteen years formed the basis of our currency, would be subjected to a heavy loss. The answer given was, that in reality no loss would be suffered - because, though doubloons, being bought and sold as bullion in other countries, fluctuated in price, the amount of pure gold in sovereigns rated at 25s. and Doubloons at £4 Halifax currency, was so nearly equal, that in reality the debtor would pay and the creditor receive a fair equivalent, whether the debt was discharged in the one or the other. That 80 sovereigns containing 904 88-100 grains of pure gold, and 25 doubloons 901 25 - the creditor would in reality get

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a trifle more, if paid in sovereigns, or the silver which would buy them at the mint, than if he were paid in doubloons - a difference, however, so slight, as to throw no serious difficulty in the way of such an adjustment. But then it was urged by Messrs. Lawson, Uniacke, and Deblois, that the Sovereigns and the British Coins could not be had - that it was true, shillings and sixpences had flowed in here during the last few years, in consequence of their being rated above their value, but as the balance of trade was so largely against us with England, the moment British Coins became relatively rated, they would all fly off, and leave us with nothing in which debts could be legally paid. To this it was answered, that the same arguments had been formerly used to prevent the Country coming to Cash Payments; it being then said, that we could not supply ourselves with any coin at all, or conduct our business but in paper redeemable in nothing. That the labor of every country was equal to supply it with all the money necessary to carry on its business - and of the ~~particular~~

particular coins which by law were made the standard of value and money of account. That we had no mines - no mint - and yet coins of every nation were found here. Of course we could only procure these by sending abroad the products of our labor as an equivalent; and that the labour which brought us the dollar and the doubloon, would bring us, in quantities quite equal to our wants, the sovereign, the crown and the shilling. But, said the other side, British money is of more value here than it is in England, because the Commissary requires £101,10s for a Bill on England of £100. Of course, was the reply, the cost of transportation must be paid by any country wanting coins, from every other country from which they are to be brought. The Spanish Dollar - the Columbian Doubloon - even the American Eagle, which has but to cross the Bay of Fundy, is burthened with this expense, but what does that prove?

To obviate the objection about subjecting the Creditor to loss, by compelling him to receive payment in British

~~Coins~~

Coins, the friends of the Resolutions agreed to give to all Creditors, for one year, the option of demanding the doubloon at £4. An outcry was raised against this. It would give the Creditor a great advantage - it would stimulate every man having a debt owing to him to collect it within 12 months, in order that he might make a profit by selling his doubloons in a foreign market; and it would oblige those who had contracted obligations in British Money at 25s. to pay in what could not be had but at a very heavy premium. To this it was replied, that we had now but a choice of paths out of the dangerous position in which past blunders had placed us - that each had its difficulties and objections - but that we must choose, and that which presented the least ought to be taken. That in the arrangement of a question so complicated, a trifling injustice might be done to some class of persons, but that, as in all such cases, the few must give way to the paramount objects of the safety and security of the many. That no great injustice could be done to either debtor or ~~creditor~~

creditor, so long as precisely the same amount of the precious metals was made the medium of settlement between them. The opposition, when asked what remedy they would apply, stated their desire to go back to the old Halifax Currency - which was the Currency of all the surrounding Colonies and of the United States, &c. and which would simplify our operations with them, and obviate the difficulty about the scarcity of Coins. To this it was objected, that old Halifax Currency would be 18 British Shillings to the pound - so that all the debts contracted by the Community to the Banks in British Shillings at 16 to the pound currency, would have to be discharged by 18, thus giving them an advantage over those who owed them of £10 on every £100. That this was a proposition, a thousand times more monstrous than either the loss they proposed to inflict on the Creditor, by paying him in British Coins, or the risk they were willing to subject the debtor to of paying in doubloons. Finally the Resolutions were carried, by a majority of 5, and a Committee appointed to prepare a Bill. (~~Taking Resolutions in committee~~)

29/2/1836

Halifax, February 4, 1836.

p.35.

The Currency - British Sterling.

*These Resolutions
all passed by
the House of
Assembly
1836
H. Selby*

Mr. Stewart reported by Bill from the Committee to whom the Resolutions, passed on the subject of the currency, were referred. These, as they finally passed in Committee of the whole house, were as follow:

Resolved, That British Sterling ought to be the money of account in this Province.

Resolved, That on debts contracted before any act to be passed, for carrying the above resolution into effect, shall go into operation, when the same are paid in British Sterling, one fifth shall be deducted from the amount due, and this rule for converting Currency into Sterling shall also be applied to Salaries, fees, the public debt, and all obligations.

Resolved, That the Province Note shall be, and

be deemed to be, of the value of sixteen shillings in British Sterling.

Resolved, That British Silver shall be a Tender to the extent of one hundred pieces, and British and Provincial Copper Coins to the extent of Twelve pieces only.

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Loss of the First Currency Bill and Editorial Lamenting the Lack of Progress
on Currency

SATURDAY, 30th JANUARY, 1836.

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On motion, the Order of the Day was read; and there-
upon,

A Bill to establish the Standard and Value of Money
in this Province, and to provide for the Assimilation
of the Currency and Monies of Account thereof, with
those of the United Kingdom, was read a second time.

Mr. Uniacke moved, that the further consideration
of the Bill ^{be} deferred to this day three months: which,
being seconded and put, the House dividing thereon,
there appeared for the motion, seventeen; against it, *fifteen.*

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Halifax, February 4, 1836.

THE MONEY CHANGERS TRIUMPHANT. - Since the above was written, the Bankers and their agents have obtained another triumph, and there is every prospect of the community being left at their mercy for twelve months more. Mr. Stewart's 2d Resolution being carried yesterday by a majority of only 3, he declared his determination to abandon them. While almost every man in business at the present moment is compelled to take British Silver at 16s. to the Pound, one Bank obliges those who deal with it to lose 6d. on the Pound, or £2 10 on every hundred; while the other, by refusing to take it but at 24s. daily subjects those who can get nothing else in payment of their debts, to lose £5 on the £100. If there is no hope that the interested, who shift their ground, and change their opinions from year to year, to increase their gains, will allow this country to have a standard of value - either the sovereign, the dollar, or the doubloon - then the sooner the people, by one simultaneous movement, petition the King for an Act of Parliament the better. A number of communications received on this important subject, will be attended to in our next.

Halifax Merchant Discusses the Currency Question

1836

Abstract Calculations

The Nova Scotia
or
Colonial Herald.
1836.
p. 36.

Halifax, February 4, 1836.

CURRENCY & STERLING.

We beg to recommend to the attentive consideration of our Readers, and the Country generally, the following able and clear view of the argument in favor of adopting British Coins as our Standard of Value and Money of Account. It has been sent to us by a Merchant in extensive business, but unconnected with either of the Monied Institutions; and embodies, we believe, the views of those, who in the House and out of it have advocated this measure:

1836
1/2/36

ON CURRENCY AND COINS.

The American money Acts, passed 21st June, 1834, to take effect from 31st July, 1834, provided that their coins shall be

Formerly

	Grains Stand.	Grains pure gold	Stand.	Formerly pure gold.	
an Eagle containing	258	232	} 264 8	246 1	
Half Eagle	129	116		132 4	123 5
Quarter Eagle	64½	58		66 2	61 0

These Acts also fixed the value of Foreign Coins thus: -

Gold Coins of Great Britain, Portugal and Brazil - fine 22 carats at 94 8-10 cents per penny wt.

Gold Coins France - fine nine-tenths, at 93 1 per dwt.

Gold Coins of Spain, Mexico, and Colombia - fine 20 car. 3 gr. 7-16 at 89 9 per dwt.

Silver Coins - Dollars of Mexico, Peru, Chili, and central America and Brazil, at 100 cents the dollar of weight 415 grains, fineness 10 oz. 15 dwt. in 12 oz.

French 5 franc pieces - 10 oz. 16d. in 12oz.

~~weight~~

weight 384 at 93 cents. each.

Value of Coins according to this tariff				
	dwt.	gr.	current for	
Guinea weighs	5	8	"	\$5 05
Sovereign	5	3	4 82	4 85
			4 84	
Doubloon	17	8	15 48	15 58
			15 50	
Half Eagle (old)	5	15	5	5 33 $\frac{1}{4}$

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF MONEY

One pound Sterling = 240d is equal to 4 85 cts.
therefore, as 485 to 240:: so is 100 = being one dollar to
49d. 484-1000.

The American Dollar is therefore a fraction less
than 4s. and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling.

The American cent, is about 1 per cent less than
one English half-penny, being as 485 - to 480 - half-pence =
£1 Sterling.

~~THE~~

The American Dollar, since its introduction, has fallen in value thus:

	d.	hf.d.
1 Dollar = 100 cts. equal 4s. 6d. St. or	54	or 108
" " 4s. 2d. or	50	100
" " 4s. 1d. $\frac{1}{2}$	49 48-100	98 $\frac{1}{2}$

IN HALIFAX CURRENCY.

The Doubloon is equal to £4 0 0 or 80 shillings.

In the United States to \$15 58	15 58
<hr/>	<hr/>
16	80

Therefore, the Dollar Hx is 97 Cents $37\frac{1}{2}$ -100

The Shilling, is 19 Cents $47\frac{1}{2}$ -100

The Halifax Dollar or five Shillings Currey. is therefore worse than the Am. 2 Cents, $62\frac{1}{2}$ and as 97 $37\frac{1}{2}$ is to 100, so is 60 Pence to 61 61-100, the value here of a silver Dollar. The Dollar is therefore, in Exchange for Paper or Doubloons, worth 5s 1d 6-10.

~~The~~

Now, as the doubloon (old Spanish) is at the mint
 price of gold in England £3 5 10 5-100
 and by the above calculation 3 4 3 25-100

The Americans have, to the am. of 16 30-100
 on each Doubloon overvalued it, or depreciated their unit
 of value, the Dollar in the same ratio.

The remedies for the Currency, are therefore, the
 following:

1. To adopt British Sterling as the standard of
 value, represented by the Sovereign.
2. To adopt British money as the Currency in fu-
 ture, because the coins are in common use - are redeemable
 by the Government - and are in equal aliquot parts of the
 Pound, whether Sterling or present Currency
3. To establish the rate at which debts are to be
 paid, at one Doubloon for every four Pounds of debt.

To render Foreign Coins Current at their actual
 value by a Table stating their value

In Sterling in American money.

In American Money.

And with reference to Halifax value of £4 to the
Doubloon.

N.B. The Americans have abandoned their silver
standard and adopted one of Gold; raising the latter in
proportion to the former as one to 16 - instead of one to
15 as formerly - in other words reducing the silver relative-
ly with gold.

To answer satisfactorily the question so frequently
put; at what rate, expressed in the present Halifax currency,
the Pound Sterling, or the Sovereign its representative should
be received in payment of Debts? reference must be made to
first principles.

Pecuniary obligations are discharged by delivering
to the Creditor the quantity of Gold or Silver which the
sum contracted for represents, according to the money value

~~which~~

which the State has affixed to a given quantity of either of those metals - in the Country of the contract; and the impression given at the mint on each piece of those metals, is a certificate of the quantity and quality of the metal it contains. The Creditor in receiving payment does not, as of old he was obliged to do, try each coin by the touchstone for its purity, or by the balance for its weight - but receiving the number of pieces representing his debt, knows that, in fact he has obtained the precise quantity of Gold or Silver his Debtor had agreed to give him.

Now, in Halifax, by a general consent of the Mercantile Body, since acted upon by the Legislature, the Common Doubloon was adopted, as the current money of the Province, and received as the representative and equivalent of Four Pounds Halifax Currency. And as this Coin contained 360,5 Grains of pure Gold, it became a necessary result that every debt of Four Pounds Currency could be justly discharged only by payment of precisely the same quantity of the same metal,

~~67~~

or by some generally received and just representative of that quantity of Gold.

If therefore, Doubloons, instead of being as they are in most Countries, Bullion, the object of Merchandize, and therefore, varying in price, were here the standard of value, and unchanging (as the legal money in all Countries must necessarily be or it could not remain a measure of value, there would be no difficulty in adjusting Contracts made with reference to Doubloons at that value, since, by whatever name, or at whatever nominal price a Doubloon might pass in Exchange, a debt of £4, so contracted, would at all times be satisfied by payment of one Doubloon.

But in the absence of Doubloons or the uncertainty of their price as Bullion, the Debtor and Creditor are each entitled to be protected against loss in the liquidation of the Contracts between them. In other words, the Debtor should be bound to pay, and the other to receive for his demand, precisely the same quantity of the precious metal, and of the same

~~fineness,~~

fineness, as would be payable or receivable had Doubloons remained in circulation, and without fluctuating in value.

Suppose then, a debt contracted in 1825 for £100 Halifax Currency to be now demanded. It must be admitted that the Creditor would be justly paid his Demand by 25 Doubloons; - because, in 1825 the parties contracted with reference to that coin, and that number of pieces would then have been readily accepted from the Debtor. In either event the Debtor would pay and the Creditor receive just so much Gold as 25 Doubloons contain, that is, 25 times 360, 5 grains of fine Gold; this last being the number of grains of pure metal in the ordinary Doubloon.

But the Debtor is unable to obtain Doubloons, and he tenders in their stead 80 Sovereigns - does he offer a just equivalent for the former? He does - because, as a Sovereign contains 113,1 grains of standard gold, the 80 Sovereigns offered contain 904,80.100 grains; while the 25 Doubloons contain but 901, 25 grains of gold of the same standard.

~~The~~

The creditor gains therefore by this payment in Sovereigns $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains of gold more than the 25 Doubloons would give him - unless indeed it can be reasonably contended that standard gold, in the form of a Doubloon, bearing the certificate of a foreign country, is really worth more than a greater quantity of the same metal in the shape of a Sovereign issued from the Mint of Great Britain. The just rule for converting Sterling into Currency or Currency into Sterling ~~into Sterling~~ cannot be ascertained by reference to the nominal, or current value of any Coins. It can only depend on the relative intrinsic values of the Gold or Silver coins on which Sterling or Currency has been actually based. All other modes are fallacious, and if adopted inevitably create confusion in Contracts, and disputes and injustice to the parties in their liquidation. But by resorting to the proportions of the precious metals in the particular Coins on which the two monies of account are founded, a Rule is provided applicable in all cases - to all Countries - and ~~unden-~~
~~ably~~

undeniably just - the Debtor pays and the Creditor receives precisely what each meant to pay or receive when the Debt originated. This Rule of conversion will then result from the intrinsic values of the Doubloon, the Representative of the Currency, and the Sovereign the equivalent of the Pound Sterling.

If one Doubloon, containing 360,5 Grains be worth 80 shillings Currency, one Sovereign containing 113,1 Grains will be worth 25 Shillings and one penny Currency, rejecting fractions.

And as precisely the same reasoning applies to engagements with reference to Silver money, it is plain that to bring Sterling into Currency one fourth must be added, and to convert Currency into Sterling one fifth must be deducted.

The value then of a Sovereign or of one Pound Sterling when expressed in Halifax Currency is 25s. But it is said that British money can be procured for 24s or 24s 6d. and therefore 25s is more than the Sovereign ought to be rated at

~~when~~

when adopting a Rule of conversion. The answer to this objection is, that those who sell their Sovereigns for 24s or 24s 6d sell them as Bullion for less than their value - for if they receive in payment Doubloons, or notes convertible into Doubloons at the rate of £4 each, for their British Gold, they give a larger quantity of the latter than they can possibly receive for the former. Purchases of this description will therefore be made only from those who are ignorant of the Commodity they deal with.

942/44/47/48

The Defeat of the Second Currency Bill and Related Petition to Council

Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

Friday, 5th February, 1836.

p. 914.

.....
An engrossed Bill concerning the Currency of Nova-
Scotia, was read a third time; and thereupon,

On motion of Mr. Stewart, resolved, that the follow-
ing Enacting Clause be added to the Bill by way of Rider, viz:

And be it further enacted, That the Act, passed in
the Fourth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, entitled, An
Act for regulating the Currency of this Province, save and
except the Preamble and fifth Clause thereof, shall be revived
and continued, and the said Act, and every matter, clause and
thing, therein contained, except as aforesaid, are hereby
revived and continued, until this Act shall come into operation,
that is to say, until the first day of August next ensuing the
passing hereof, and no longer.

Mr. Uniacke then moved, that the following Enacting
Clause, be also added to the Bill by way of Rider, viz:

And be it further enacted, That the first, second,
~~third~~

1836
5 20/4

third, fourth, fifth, ninth, twelfth, and last Clauses of this Act, shall not go into operation before the first day of December, 1837, and in the mean time, in all future Contracts, the several and respective Gold and Silver Coins herein specified, being of full weight and fineness, shall be, and be deemed of the value of, and equivalent to, the sum of Halifax Currency specified against each respective Coin, and for the payment of all debts hereafter contracted, until the said 1st day of December, 1837, shall be received, and may be legally tendered and paid, according to the rates, and in the proportionate sums respectively expressed herein, that is to say:

The Eagle of the United States	£2	10	0
The half Eagle of the United States	1	5	0 /
The quarter Eagle of the United States	0	12	6

The Dollar,	{ Of the United States or central America, Spain, Spanish and Republican America and Brazil.	{ 0 5 0

And all the aliquot parts of such Dollars at the above rate and relative proportions; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, sixteen; against it, nineteen.

So it passed in the Negative.

Mr. Stewart then moved, that the Bill do now finally pass to be sent to the Council: which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, nineteen; against it, sixteen.

So it passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered, That the title to the Bill be, An Act concerning the Currency of Nova Scotia; and that the Clerk do carry the Bill to the Council and desire their concurrence.

P. 915.

FN#1 →

(Handwritten initials)

(Handwritten scribble)

Public Records of Nova Scotia

Manuscript Documents

Legislative Council

Vol. 292, 1833 - 1836, Document No. 129.

(Handwritten initials)

To The Honorable

His Majestys Council in Legislature

Convened -

The Petition of the Undersigned Merchants and others interested in the Trade and Welfare of the Province of Nova Scotia. Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioners have learned with deep regret that a Bill has passed the House of Assembly, and is now for consideration before your Honorable House having for its effect to change the Monies of account of this Province - should the measure as at present contemplated be passed into Law, it will create innumerable evils in the general trade and business of this Province ; affecting our Commercial relations with the whole Continent of North America, and the West Indies, and extending down to the most ordinary

(Handwritten signature)
1836
8 July

transactions of domestic life ; causing much confusion to all classes, especially to the Poorer Inhabitants, without (in the opinion of your Memorialists) producing any redeeming advantages -

Your Memorialists do not find that the adoption of Sterling Money in this Province, is called for by the existence of any real practical difficulties

Under these Circumstances thus briefly brought to the notice of your Honorable House, Your Memorialists humbly and earnestly entreat that the Bill passed by the House of Assembly, may not receive the sanction of your Honorable Board, and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray etc,

Correct
W. Pryor
Edw. Cunard
M. Tobin

William Pryor

Edw. Cunard

M. Tobin

(Petition of William Pryor
& al.)
Recd 8th February 1836.)

~~974~~
~~No. 5. 451.~~ 8/2/36

~~Pryor, Cunard and Tobin's petition against Currency Bill, on ground that it is unnecessary and harmful, (to Council).~~

W/P

1836

The Novascotian
or
Colonial Herald
1836.

Halifax, February 11, 1836.

THURSDAY'S EDITION. *(Handwritten mark)*

p.46.

Feb 9
Feb 10
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1836
W. Schuy

The greater part of Tuesday was occupied by the ordinary Bills, to the number of twenty, for continuing the expiring laws. Yesterday Mr. Uniacke's Bill for the settlement of the currency, by rating American Coins instead of British, was discussed in Committee of the whole House. This Bill goes to fix the American Eagle at \$10, the half Eagle at \$5 - the Spanish and Mexican Dollar at 5s. and the halves and quarters at 2s 6d and 1s3d - and gives one year for the payment of old obligations in British silver at 25s. and Doubloons at £4. It was stoutly opposed by Messrs. Young, Bell, and others, on the ground that it was an impudent attempt to oblige debtors to give £10 on every £100, more than they had contracted to pay - and to enable the Banks to deal in American half and quarter Dollars, and other de-

based

debased and spurious coins, instead of British money, the weight and fineness of which could not be misunderstood. After a good deal of discussion, in which the old arguments were used on all sides, the House divided on a motion for filling up the blank, by which the use of the present currency in the payment of debts was limited to one year, which was negatived by a large majority.

may
The House were in Committee on this Bill, when our paper went to Press. Mr. Uniacke having moved as an amendment that all debts heretofore contracted, should be paid in Doubloons at £4, and British Coins at 25s. without limitation as to time.

was
Six O'clock p.m. We stop the Press to announce that the Bill has been so amended as substantially to change its character, and establish British Sterling. - Majority 4.

1200: ...

FN#2 →

841f
House Rejects the Council's Currency Bill

THURSDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1836.

.....
The engrossed Bill sent yesterday from the Council,
entitled, An Act to regulate the Currency of Nova-
Scotia, was read a first time; and thereupon,

Mr. Stewart moved, that the said Bill be read a se-
cond time this day three months: which, being seconded
and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared
for the motion, twenty-six ; against it, twelve.

.....
So it passed in the Affirmative
.....

949a/50/51/52

The Defeat of the Fourth Currency Bill

THURSDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1836.

.....
Mr. Johnston, pursuant to leave given, presented a Bill to declare the value of certain Coins Current in this Province, and to provide a legal tender for the payment of debts, and the same was read a first time.

ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

FRIDAY, 19th FEBRUARY, 1836.

.....
The amendments sent yesterday to this House from the Council to the Bill, entitled, An Act to declare the value of certain Coins current in this Province, and to provide a legal Tender for the payment of debts, were read ; and thereupon,

On motion of Mr. Young, resolved, that the said amendments be not agreed to by this House.

Mr. Uniacke then moved, that a Conference, by Committee, be desired with His Majesty's Council on the subject of said Bill and Amendments ; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, twelve; against it twenty-two.

So it passed in the Negative.

Ordered, That the Clerk do carry the Bill and amendments back to the Council, and acquaint them that this House have not agreed to said amendments.

~~1836~~

2/23/36

Journal of Leg. Council
N.S. 1836.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 23d FEBRUARY, 1836.

N. 57

.....

On motion, resolved, that a Conference be desired with the House of Assembly, by Committee, on the Bill, entitled, An Act to declare the value of certain Coins Current in this Province, and to provide a legal tender for the payment of Debts.

1836
27 July

Resolved, That Mr. Cogswell, Mr. McNab and Mr. Allison be a Committee of Council to manage such Conference.

Resolved, That the Committee of Council be instructed to state to the Committee of the House of Assembly, that His Majesty's Council are fully sensible of the injury and inconvenience arising from the deranged and fluctuating state of the Currency in this Province, and are very desirous of agreeing to such Legislative measures as may be best adapted to remedy the existing evils, - the principal causes of which, His Majesty's

~~Council~~

Council are of opinion, will be found in the high nominal value at which the various descriptions of Coins have circulated in this Province for several years past - the additional value given to the British Silver, by the operation of the late Revenue Laws, and the Law raising the value of the shillings and six-pences beyond that of other British Money - the nominal value of British Silver, at twenty-five Shillings Currency to the Pound Sterling, being relatively higher than other Coins - His Majesty's Council are of opinion that it would prove extremely injurious to attempt to perpetuate its circulation at that rate, as, whatever loss may now be sustained by the Public or Individuals, on this description of money, such loss would be greatly increased by continuing this value under the sanction of the Law.

His Majesty's Council think that it is very desirable to assimilate the Currency of this Province with that of our Sister Colonies, as it formerly existed; and they were actuated

by this desire, in the amendments they have made to the Bill sent up by the House of Assembly, to which amendments they are induced to adhere, except to that which limits the payments of past Contracts in Doubloons, at the rate of Four Pounds Currency each, to the date of the first of January, 1839.

His Majesty's Council will willingly extend the right of settling such Contracts indefinitely, if such extension should be desired by the House of Assembly, as they think it just and equitable that all such existing Contracts should be discharged at that rate. Doubloons having circulated in this Province at Four Pounds for nearly twenty years past, and having maintained that value to the present time.

His Majesty's Council are of opinion that the adoption of Sterling, as the Money of Account, as proposed by the House of Assembly, in the Bill, entitled, An Act concerning the Currency of Nova-Scotia, would prove inconvenient and injurious to the general interests of the Province, unless similar measures

~~should~~
should be agreed upon in Canada and New-Brunswick, in which case, it might be found a beneficial remedy for the evils now existing.

198

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Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.

Thursday, 25th February, 1836.

p. 97A.

.....

Mr. Young moved, that a further Conference be desired with a Committee of His Majesty's Council, on the subject of the Bill, entitled, An Act to declare the value of certain Coins current in this Province, and to provide a legal tender for the payment of Debts; and that the Committee of this House state to the Committee of His Majesty's Council, that the causes adverted to by His Majesty's Council, of the deranged state of the Currency, had not escaped the notice of the House, in their deliberations on this important subject, and that it had accordingly proposed two measures to restore a sound Currency - that the House has only to regret that the modification which His Majesty's Council has now suggested, as to the indefinite period of satisfying all past Debts and Contracts, by the payment of the Doubloon at the rate of Four Pounds, touches not the main points of difference; and that, should the Council persist in adhering to their amendments to the said Bill, the evils now

~~existing~~

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 bill
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 1836
 25 Feb

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existing will, the House fears, not only continue, but increase: which motion being seconded,

Mr. Oxley moved, that the Order of the Day, be now read: which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, fifteen; against it, twenty-two.

So it passed in the Negative.

Mr. Johnston then moved, by way of amendment to the question first proposed, to leave out all the words thereof except the words "that a further Conference be desired" and to insert in the place thereof the words following, to stand part of the question, to wit: with His Majesty's Council on the subject of the Bill to declare the value of certain Coins current in this Province, and to provide a legal tender for the payment of Debts; and that the Committee of this House be instructed to state to the Committee of His Majesty's Council, that this House considers it highly necessary that the Currency of this Province should be permanently fixed, and

~~with~~

with this view passed a Bill to introduce Sterling Money as the Money of Account of this Province, and after its rejection by His Majesty's Council, passed the Bill now before His Majesty's Council, to fix the value of the Doubloon and Sovereign in the existing Currency of this Province, and in doing so, this House fixed the standard of value in Gold, based on the Doubloon at £4; that although prior to 1819 the Dollar at 5s. was the basis of the Currency of this Province, yet, in that year, from the improvident alteration made in the Currency, by valuing the Doubloon at £4, the Currency of this Province became no longer regulated by the value of the Dollar at 5s. but by the Doubloon at £4; and which Coin, so valued, has, from that time in practice been the standard of value, and by which all other Coins, intended to have a fixed nominal value and to form part of the circulation ought to be rated; that, although an improper valuation of Coins, in respect to their value in relation to each other requires to be rectified that all may circulate, no good can ever arise from raising or depressing the nominal value of

all the Coins in circulation; - but, much evil and injury, by disturbing the nominal value of Property - violating Contracts, involving the payment of Money, and doing injustice to either Debtor or Creditor. - To avoid these evils this House did not wish again to make a change in the existing Currency, but to settle the Currency as it had existed since 1819, and by a permanent Law to prevent future changes, and this House considers that this end will be attained by the Doubloon being permanently fixed at £4.

That this House is sensible that by the Bill now before His Majesty's Council, the Sovereign with reference to the Doubloon is rather over-rated, yet the House believed that the difference was not so great as to prevent the circulation of both Coins, and that in practice the Sovereign would not be introduced to the exclusion of the Doubloon. According to the valuation given in the Law of the United States of 1834, of the Sovereign and the Doubloon, the Sovereign ought, in reference to the Doubloon at £4, to be valued at £1 4s. 10d 3-4.;

~~that~~

that, the only other Coins whose value is fixed by the Bill of this House, are the British Silver Coins at 25s. to the pound Sterling, and although over-rated with reference to their intrinsic worth, yet, this apparent error is corrected by providing that they shall only be a legal tender to the extent of £5, thus adopting the policy of the British Legislature, that confines the tender in British Silver to 40s.; and this House is of opinion that the Bill now before His Majesty's Council will in its tendency correct the excessive circulation of the British Silver Coins, since under the Law that lately expired those Coins were made a Legal Tender to the extent of £50.

Although the House admits that His Majesty's Council, in desiring to return to the old Halifax Currency, have endeavoured to prevent injustice being done to Debtors, yet, the House are of opinion that they may be exposed to exactions contrary to the spirit and meaning of the amendments proposed by His Majesty's Council, and that considerable difficulty would have arisen, and perhaps loss to the Province, if the large Funded

~~and~~

and unfunded Debts were to be made payable in the Dollar at 5s. This House regrets the change that was made in the old Currency, and that it is desirable that our Currency should have been similar to that of the adjoining British Provinces - but this advantage is not of itself a sufficient reason to change an existing Currency; the Currency of Countries being different, never preventing Commercial intercourse, as the par of Exchange can always be readily ascertained in those Countries that have a Metallic Currency: which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, twelve; against it, twenty-three.

So it passed in the Negative.

The main question being then put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion originally made, twenty-five; against it, ten.

So it passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered, That the Clerk do request said Conference accordingly.

~~FMS~~

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON COIN RATINGS
a. "A Merchant" Approves of £4 Rating for the Doubloon

Handwritten in Standard of Currency 5/1/1836
practical for further change

The Novascotian
or
Colonial Herald.
1836.

Halifax, March 16, 1836.

p.85.

MR. HOWE,

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

1836
March

Certainly, a sound and convenient currency is what we want, but it may be well to examine them a little further before we adopt the recommendations of H. M. Council. I have already said that the old Halifax currency of 'Inquirer,' is dollars at 5s. but this is no standard, because dollars fluctuate in London, and we should have no rule of conversion for ascertaining the relation between our new standard and sterling - but by adopting the dollar as a legal tender we shall agree better in our monetary concerns with our neighbours. Perhaps we should - but our currency would be no sounder than it is now - neither the dollar at 5s. nor the doubloon at £4, correspond correctly with old Halifax currency,

~~and~~

and it is quite immaterial which we use when we have dis-
ented from that. In New Brunswick Patriot doubloons are
practically worth £4, at which rate they are as cheap a coin
in the market of the world, as old French crowns at 5s.6d.
and old 5 franc pieces at 4s.9d. which are legal tenders in
that province. Our money then is, in fact, as good as theirs
at this moment. In farther proof of which, the exchange
between the two Provinces has been at par for some time
past. With Upper Canada, we have no commercial intercourse
whatever, and with Lower Canada, our trade is principally
in barter. But, even in that Province, although they do not
use the despised doubloon, bills on London are now at a high-
er rate of premium than they are here. As respects those
Colonies then, it would seem that it is not necessary, (if
practicable) to produce a nearer assimilation to their
Currency. In the United States, accounts are kept in dollars
and cents, and if one pound does not fairly represent four
of their dollars, the difference is not of sufficient ~~magni-~~
tude

magnitude to require any legislation on our part.

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+ + + + +

+ + + + +

A MERCHANT.

March 5.

"X" Criticizes "A Merchant" for Confusing Currency and Exchange

The, Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1836.
 p. 106.

Halifax, April 6, 1836.

FOR THE NOVASCOTIAN.

MR. HOWE,

Sir - In discussing the present state of our monetary system, and the various methods proposed for improving it, some embarrassment as apparently been caused by confounding Currency with Exchange; so mixing them together, and sometimes putting one for the other, that mystification and increased perplexity have unhappily been the result.

"A Merchant" who makes his appearance in a late Novascotian has not well considered this, or sufficiently attended to the distinction. Yet, the right understanding and application of terms he justly considers of primary importance, and accordingly he states the proper meaning of old Halifax Currency, which he defines to be not the dollar at 5s. or the coin in use, but "a money of account distinguished from

~~British~~

*Sterling in England, the
Nominal difference of 6d.*

British Sterling by the addition of 11 1-9 per cent." - thus, if I mistake not, giving the relation which the Currency bears to Sterling for the Currency itself. Currency in the ordinary and I believe correct acceptance of the term, or at least as it is used by "Inquirer," denotes the money, coins or paper, in circulation in any country; and the relation in which it stands to the Currency of any others is expressed by Exchange. So, Halifax Currency, for nearly half a century, was the Spanish Milled dollar of a certain weight and fineness at 5s. - all other coins passing currently, being valued and rated at this Standard; and so long as this dollar continued to be worth 4s.6d. or 11 1-9 per cent. was the par of Exchange between the two, determining their relative value.

At the present value of the dollar, then, the true par of exchange is nearly 20 per cent, but from the force of long habit, the Exchange is still called 11 1-9 per cent, and the difference is made up by premium, as it is ~~denoted~~

~~also~~

denominated, when oftentimes no actual premium exists. To prevent fluctuations in Exchange is impossible, one might as well think of chaining the wind; but a Currency may be established on a durable and invariable basis, if only let alone afterwards. For this, either the standard of the dollar or the Sovereign will equally answer, for if people will, they can depart from both. By adopting Sterling as the Currency and money of account, the relation of our Currency with that of all parts of the world, would be materially altered, and whether any great benefit would result therefrom, may be considered by some, at least, doubtful. While the rate of Exchange with England, would be reduced to about par, with every other Country and place with which we have any dealings, it would be quite the reverse. Such changes generally have no very salutary effect on trade and commerce. Leaving any further notice of "A Merchant's" letter and of the whole subject of the Currency to more able hands, I will only add, that I do not know how it has been, or can be ~~done~~

~~done~~

demonstrated, that Sovereigns at 25s are the equivalent of, or equally rated with, the Doubloons at \$4 - which are worth fully 16 dollars each. In the United States, the Patriot Doubleon has risen to 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars, and at its value in England 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Doubloons current here at \$5 - would there bring considerably more than 4 Sovereigns, to which Mr. Johnston's Bill would have made them only equal.

Yours, &c.

X.

ACT TO SET THE RATE AT WHICH COINS ARE PAID OUT OF THE TREASURYa. House Resolves to set New Pay Out Rates for Coins

1836

*Rates of Coins, Decree from Feb 11/36**1836*Journals of Assembly,
N.S. 1830-36.Saturday, 26th March, 1836

Mr. Stewart moved, that the House do come to a Resolution as followeth, viz: -

p. 1062.

Resolved, That the Treasurer shall pay all sums of Money granted the present year and included in the Appropriation Act thereof, in Province Notes, or in the Gold and Silver Coins from time to time paid into the Treasury, at the rates at which the said Gold and Silver Coins are by the Act, passed the present Session, entitled, An Act for granting Colonial Duties of Impost for the support of His Majesty's Government within this Province, and for promoting the Agriculture, Commerce and Fisheries thereof, directed to be secured in payment of Duties, viz: The Doubloon of full weight and fineness, at the rate of Four Pounds Currency each. - The Sovereign at the rate of One Pound Five Shillings Currency each, and British Silver at the same proportion, and that a clause be inserted in the Appropriation Act for that purpose; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared,

~~for~~

for the motion, nineteen; against it, fourteen; ~~7~~

.....

So it passed in the Affirmative.

Mr. Doyle moved, that the Resolution be not now sent to the Council for concurrence; which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared, for the motion, sixteen; against it, eighteen: So it passed in the Negative.

Ordered, That the Clerk do carry the Resolution to the Council and desire their concurrence.

Council Objects to Rating of British Coins; Passes Amendment Limiting Payments in them

to 40s.

to read down at present to 40s. by the Council's bill

Journals of Leg. Council.
N.S. 1836.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SATURDAY, 2d APRIL, 1836.

p. 137.

*1836
2 April
C*

.....
A Bill, entitled, An Act to regulate and ascertain the Rates at which Monies shall be paid out of the Treasury, was read a second time; whereupon,

Mr. Allison moved, that a Conference be desired with the House of Assembly on the said Bill, and that the Committee of Conference be instructed to state to the Committee of the House of Assembly, that His Majesty's Council having, in a former Conference on the Bill, entitled, "An Act to declare the value of certain Coins current in this Province, and to provide a Legal Tender for the payment of Debts," informed the House of Assembly, that they considered the rate at which British Money was valued therein, viz: Twenty-five Shillings Currency to the Pound Sterling, as too high, being relatively beyond that of other Coins in circulation in the Province, and as it is

~~10-3~~

proposed by the present Bill to establish this money at the same rate, so far as relates to payments from the Treasury during the current year, the Council, therefore, cannot concur in that part of the Bill relating to British Money, which would, in a great measure, influence its value in other general transactions during the present year, and would occasion a considerable augmentation of British Silver by importation from Great Britain and the Colonies, thereby increasing the loss which, the Council are of opinion, must eventually be sustained on this description of money, and in the mean time continuing and augmenting the disordered state of the Currency, stated by the House of Assembly in the Preamble of the Bill; in addition to those reasons the Council consider it unjust toward the Public Creditor, to compel him by Law to receive payment in a Coin which is relatively rated higher than other monies in circulation in the Province.

That the Council consider that the rates at which Doubloons and Provincial Notes are established in this Bill, are

~~unobjectionable~~

unobjectionable, being the value at which these monies have passed for a long period, and they are willing to concur in that part of the Bill:

Which, being seconded, Mr. Cogswell moved, as an amendment, that the following Instruction be given to the Committee of Conference instead of the foregoing, viz: that His Majesty's Council will agree to the Bill, entitled, An Act to regulate and ascertain the Rates at which Monies shall be paid out of the Treasury, with the addition of the following Proviso:

"Provided always, That no person shall be compelled to receive more than Forty Shillings Currency in British Silver Coins in any one payment at the Treasury, under the operation of the present Bill:"

Which, being seconded and put, there appeared for the amendment, Six; against it, four:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MONDAY, 4th APRIL, 1836.

.....

The Dissentients to the passing of the Bill, entitled, An Act to regulate and ascertain the Rates at which Monies shall be paid out of the Treasury, pursuant to leave given, now entered their reasons against passing the said Bill, as follows:

1st. Because His Majesty's Council had, in three several instances during the present Session, already legislated upon the subject of the Currency, and had refused to sanction a compulsory payment and receipt of British Coins, beyond their intrinsic value, notwithstanding which, the present Bill compels the payment and receipt of these Coins at the Provincial Treasury, at prices much beyond their value.

2nd. Dissentient, because although His Majesty's Council did agree to that part of the General Revenue Bill which

~~permitted~~

1836
P. 139.

1836
4th April

permitted British Gold and Silver to be paid into the Treasury at a nominal price beyond their actual value, yet the same was done as a slight alleviation of the burthens which at present press so heavily upon the Commercial Community; at the same time His Majesty's Council were not unaware that there was an impropriety in its introduction into a Revenue Bill, and that the object would have been better attained by a plain and specific reduction of the Duties, than by giving an artificial valuation of these Coins.

3rd. These Dissentients admit the correctness of that part of the Preamble of the Bill which declares the present state of the Currency to be disordered, but, being of opinion that this disordered state has arisen from unwise endeavours to fix a false relative value upon various Coins, they cannot consent to enactments which would appear to give to these endeavours the sanction of Law.

4th. Because, if the British Silver is worth the price described as its value in the Bill, the limitation of payments

~~40~~

to be made in it to so small a sum as two pounds, is injudicious and, if it is not worth that price, then the compulsory payment of even that sum is unjust.

5th. Because the relative value of all Coins should be so accurately adjusted, as to leave it as nearly as possible a matter of indifference to the parties in what Coin they paid and received Money, - Whereas this Bill departs so widely from that principle as to make all payments a matter of discussion, as to the Coin in which they are made and received, without at all affording a corresponding advantage for the inconvenience, or any compensation for the injustice.

6th. Because, although there may arise a gain to the Provincial Treasury, by the attempt to establish the value of British Silver at the rate of Twenty-five Shillings to the Pound Sterling, the Dissentients think such gain will be purchased at the expense of good faith and fair dealing; and that the encouragement which this measure will hold out, for the importation of these Coins, will eventually entail great loss ~~upon~~

upon the Community, by whom it must ultimately be borne.

4th April, 1836.

(SIGNED) S.B.Robie, Thos. N. Jeffery, Emos Collins,

Joseph Allison.

N.S. Laws. The Text of the Act Setting the Rate at which Coins are Paid Out of the Treasury
1836.

CAP. XLI.

An Act to regulate and ascertain the Rates at which Monies shall
be paid out of the Treasury.

(PASSED THE 4th DAY OF APRIL, 1836.)

WHEREAS it is just that the Monies granted the present Session should be paid out of the Treasury at the same rate at which they are received into the Treasury, for duties, under the Act, passed in the present Session of the General Assembly, entitled, An Act for granting Colonial Duties of Impost for the support of His Majesty's Government within this Province, and for promoting the Agriculture, Commerce and Fisheries thereof - and if some Legislative provision is not made therefore, a very considerable / loss will be sustained by the Province, in consequence of the present disordered state of the Currency.

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, That the Treasurer shall, and he is hereby authorized to, pay all sums of Money granted the present Session,

~~and~~

p.46.

p.47.

and included in the Appropriation Act thereof, in Province Notes or in the Gold and Silver Coins from time to time paid into the Treasury, at the rates at which the said Gold and Silver Coins are by the said Act, passed in the present Session, entitled, An Act for granting Colonial Duties of Impost for the support of His Majesty's Government within this Province, and for promoting the Agriculture, Commerce and Fisheries thereof directed to be received in payment of Duties, namely - the Doubloon, of full weight and fineness, at the rate of Four Pounds Currency each, the Sovereign at the rate of Twenty-five Shillings Currency each, and British Silver in the same proportion; Provided always, that no person shall be compelled to receive more than Forty Shillings Currency in British Silver Coins in any one payment at the Treasury, under the operation of the present Act.

NEW BRUNSWICK BANK NOTES AT A DISCOUNT IN N. S.

Halifax, February 10, 1836.

NEW BRUNSWICK NOTES. - New Brunswick Bank Notes, a large number of which, (some as low as five shillings,) are in circulation in the Province, are at a discount in this town. We think it necessary to apprise those who may have occasion to make remittance hither in that Paper of this circumstance. - Journal

1836-1838a. Notice of Formation of the Bank

1836
 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1836.

p.162..

25/5/1836
 Halifax, May 25, 1836.

*1836
25 May*

COLONIAL BANK. - From an Advertisement which appears in Gore's Liverpool Advertiser of the 8th April, it would appear that an Institution, bearing this title, with a Capital of £2,000,000, in 20,000 shares of £100 each, was about to be organized. The terms of a Charter, it is said, have been adjusted with His Majesty's Government. A liberal reservation of shares -(applications for which exceed the amount) is to be made for residents in the Colonies. The precise objects of the Institution are not stated - but the more competition the better. These Colonies only want Capital and labor to develop their resources rapidly - and whatever tends to bring into them either or both of these, must do them a service.

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NS Royal Gazette
7 Sept 1836

1836
14 July

845b

BANK OF

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

7/9/36 N.S. Royal Gaz.
Notice of the Bank
Subscription Book

Notice that Subscription Book for Bank of B.N.A. is Open

Capital, £1,000,000 Sterling,
In 20,000 shares of £50 each, (three fourths
of which have been suscribed in England, and the
remainder are reserved for the Colonies, with power
to increase the Capital.

London Directors:

- George De Bosco Attwood, Esq.
- Edward Blount, Esq.
- Sir Robert Campbell, Bart.
- Robert Brown, Esq.
- William Robert Chapman, Esq.
- Robert Carter, Esq.
- James John Cummins, Esq.
- James Dowie, Esq.
- Oliver Farrer, Esq.
- Alexander Gillespie, Jun. Esq.
- William Medley, Esq.
- William Pemberton, Esq.
- George Richard Robinson, Esq. M.P.
- John Waldron Wright, Esq.

The rapidity with which the British North America Colonies have advanced in prosperity, and commercial importance, the vast increase of their population-the high rate of interest-the fluctuation of exchange-the inadequacy of the capital already employed for Banking operations, and the increasing facility of intercourse with the Mother Country, point out the different settlements of British North America as affording a secure field for the profitable employment of capital; for which purpose, and with a view of promoting the Mercantile and Agricultural interests of the Colonies, the present Company has been established.

The management of the Company's affairs is vested in the London Court of Directors, and the Banks in the Colonies are to be conducted by local Boards appointed by them.

A general meeting of the Proprietors is to be held yearly in London, to whom a statement of the Company's affairs will be submitted.

Power has been reserved to the Directors to apply for, and accept on behalf of the establishment, a Charter of Incorporation or Act of Parliament.

A Deposit of £10 sterling per Share to be paid within a period to be named in the letter of allotment, at the rate of Exchange therein fixed, and the Deed of Settlement to be signed at the time of payment.

After payment of the Deposit, the remainder of the Capital will be required by instalments, not exceeding £.10 sterling per Share, at such intervals (of not less than three months) as the Directors may deem necessary to carry the objects of the Bank into operation, of which due notice will be given.

deem?

The undersigned, commissioned to represent the Court of Directors in America, and to visit the several Colonies for the purpose of putting the affairs of the Bank into operation, hereby gives notice that he will be ready to receive and consider applications from persons resident in the Province of Nova Scotia, who may be desirous of becoming Shareholders in the Capital Stock of the Company, addressed to him at the Post Office, at Halifax, on or before the 1st day of September next.

ROBERT CARTER.

New York, 14th July, 1836.

Form of Application.

To Robert Carter, Esq. Post Office,
Halifax:

Sir:

I request that you will allot to me
Shares in the Bank of British North
America; and I hereby engage to pay the Deposit
of £10 sterling each, upon so many of such
Shares as you may allot me, at the time, place, and
rate of Exchange, to be specified in your letter of
allotment; and at the same time to execute the Deed
of Settlement.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,

Signature at Length.
Place of Abode.
Date.

All letters must be post paid.

~~THE NOVA SCOTIA ROYAL GAZETTE. September 7, 1836.~~

"A Nova-Scotian" Protests Against Bank of B. N. A.

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 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1836.
 p. 330.

~~Protest against Estab^t of B.N.A.~~
 (Because more banks would be opened in the colony, which would be a great benefit to the people.)
 Halifax, October 19, 1836.

To the Editor of The Novascotian.

SIR,

1836
 19 Oct

There is at this moment becoming planted amongst us, an establishment, which, if fostered here, to the extent that it may be, will exercise an influence over the people of Nova Scotia, which shall hereafter prove destructive of their welfare, their commerce, their prosperity and advancement as a people, to a very great degree; and I cannot but be surprised to notice the apathy and obtuseness so generally manifested, while an institution is taking its rise in this Provincial metropolis, contemplated to wield its future destiny; I allude to the Bank about to be established for the North American Colonies, of which Mr. Carter, now in this town, is the agent and moving principle.

Experience of the past few years, has given us some insight into the nature and operation of Banking ~~Estab-~~
~~lishments,~~

Establishments, with their influence and power over the commercial transactions of this town - let us review them. The Halifax Bank reared its head at a time when it was universally confessed that such an establishment was wanting - its paper was freely accepted and circulated - its influence asserted, and its power was soon felt to be so extensive, that it controlled the movements of almost every individual doing business in this town, not mediately or immediately, connected with its proprietors; the speculations of the merchant, or the large traders, could, at any moment, be impeded or paralyzed by the check, which the old Bank could, and did frequently exercise by limiting, or suddenly withholding, its discounts. So severely was this power felt, and so prejudicial its operations to the concerns and interests of the town and Province generally, that a large portion of the mercantile body felt constrained, (as the best means of disfranchising themselves from the effects of this overpowering and injurious monopoly, that was obtaining all the

means and wealth of this place to its own coffers) to originate and support a rival institution, which, since its maturity and operation, has been actively employed, and doing good, notwithstanding the existence of many impediments, (some of which have arisen from the evil tendency of legislative enactments, which have sadly perplexed our monetary transactions, and the want of other regulations, by which a wholesome and secure standard of currency might have been established,) has nevertheless proved beneficially useful, in putting down the monopoly, facilitating commerce and trade, and conducing towards the restoration of a better state of affairs; also affording redress to those who, suffering under the undue restrictions and capricious exercise of power by one body of men, could now have recourse to another, which tended manifestly towards the bringing of matters to a right understanding and good order.

The money and business transactions of the Province have thereby been improved, its affairs are upon the advance,

~~and~~

and its well doing appears far more probable than ever; but while thus steadily progressing forwards, and waiting for the better and more advised amendments in our laws, which it is in the power, and I trust will be in the heads and hearts of our future legislators to enact - let us not become the willing instruments of our own downfall.

By the uprearing of an edifice amongst us, such as the Bank for the American Colonies professes to be, an Engine powerful and extensive will be established, which will drain from hence, three fourths of the interest received upon its transactions with the people here. In the proportion that the shares are to be taken in this colony, in that ratio alone, are its people to reap the benefits arising from its dealings. The monies poured in, and placed at interest here by British Capitalists will drain forth to its owners the best returns to be obtained from among us, while the profits to Novascotians will be restricted to the proportion of capital held by them, one fourth.

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In the course of time one large, and overpowering
monied influence may again arise, which shall absorb all others
in its vortex, check and control our money transactions;
commerce will be again paralysed as under the old system, and
the consolation that what is made is spent here, will not
be left, for the profits derived, will, in the greatest
proportion, be swept away to enrich a far distant land.

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

"A Nova-Scotian"

~~"A Nova-Scotian"~~.

Notice by Local Committee that the Bank of B. N. A. is Soon to Commence Business

1965
 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1836.
 p. 344.

20/10/36
 Halifax, October 26, 1836.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.
 ESTABLISHED IN LONDON,
 Capital, - One Million Sterling.

*1836
 20 Oct*

Provisional Committee for conducting the affairs of the
Branch at Halifax,

The Honorable SAMUEL CUNARD.

ALEXANDER STEWART, Esq.

STEPHEN NEWTON BINNET, Esq.
 WILLIAM ANDERSON BLACK, Esq.
 JAMES McNAB, Esq.

Standing Counsel,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Solicitors and Notaries,

MESSRS. WM. & GEORGE R. YOUNG.

Arrangements are now in progress for the early commence-
 ment of business in Halifax, and in the mean time communications

on the affairs of the Company are requested to be made to the
 members of the Provisional Committee.

ROBERT CARTER,

Commissioner from the Court of Directors.

October 20.

3m.

MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS.

1837 - 1838.

Vol. 296. Doc.No. 27.

Bank of B.N.A. Asks Legislature to Pass Bill Allowing the Bank to Sue and Be Sued
To The Honourable His Majesty's Council ,

in General Assembly convened. -

The Petition of James McNab, William Anderson Black, and

Stephen Newton Binney, of Halifax, Merchants:

Humbly Sheweth ,

That your Petitioners together with the Honorable Samuel Cunard, and Alexander Stewart Esquire, are the Provisional Committee for conducting the Branch of the Bank of British North America, established in this town . -

That since their appointment, they have hired and prepared a suitable building, and are in daily expectation of a Manager , and a large quantity of bullion to enable them to commence business. -

That the said Bank is established by subdividing a Capital of One million of pounds Sterling, into Twenty thousand Shares of Fifty pounds each, and that every Shareholder is liable to the whole extent of his fortune for the transactions of the said company. -

That in this Province, Merchants, Mechanics, Tradesmen, professional men and others, residing in the Capital and in the outposts, have taken shares in the said Bank, among whom (in number, about One hundred) are many men of undoubted wealth, character , and credit .-

That among the Shareholders in England, (in number about Six hundred) are eminent bankers, wealthy Capitalists, and Merchants connected extensively with the Colonies, thus giving to the public, the most ample security, independently of that afforded by the Shareholders in America . - That to enable the public to sue the Company, and to facilitate their legal proceedings, the Imperial Parliament passed an Act, of which a copy accompanied this petition ; and similar acts have been introduced into the Legislatures of Upper Canada, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward/Island , it being desirable that uniformity in their provisions should be observed as far as possible. -

That altho' the Bank by constituting a Trustee could themselves enforce payment from their debtors, yet unless such an Act is passed, Creditors would be unable to pursue their demands against the Bank without great if not insuperable difficulties. -

That a bill similar in its enactments has accordingly passed the House of Assembly here by a very large majority : That in its passage through the House

attempts to add clauses by which your Petitioners would be obliged annually to disclose the state of their business, wholly or partially, and by which the company might be affected by other banking establishments, were defeated by a similar majority; the House of Assembly considering that as the security to the public is unbounded, and the only boon sought or bestowed, being that of being enabled to sue or be sued, there could be no necessity, and no justice in imposing restrictions upon them, which are rightly imposed upon Corporations whose responsibility is limited: That constituted as this company is, no return could be furnished by either of the Branches, which would afford correct information as to the extent of their dealings, or resources, which will be ascertainable only by the general account to be annually made up in London, which concerns the Shareholders only, and that under such circumstances to encumber the Bill with conditions which would render it impossible for the company to accept it, could only leave the public unprotected, without materially affecting the operations of the Bank.

That it is the intention of the company, to introduce into these Colonies, Cash Credits, and to allow interest upon deposits, usually called the Scotch system, with such checks and restrictions as experience has shewn to be necessary in Scotland, and also to extend as may be prudent, to the trading towns of this province, the advantages of Banking, for which purpose the Managers

are to be selected from the Scotch Banks. - That altho' it is confidently alledged, that this system so beneficial as it hath approved itself in Scotland, and so applicable to a poor country, cannot be acted upon here for the scarcity of specie, the constant exportation of it, and the low rates of profit which such a system will in all probability render to the Stockholders, yet your Petitioners hope that the extent of business which they will be enabled to transact, and the encreased prosperity and activity which it will induce together with their large capital, and extensive resources, will enable the company to introduce it into the Province, advantageously to the Stockholders as it will certainly be beneficial to the public, and it is their intention at all events to give it a fair trial. -

That in the Imperial Act, and the bill which has passed the House, are provisions which the wisdom of the Imperial Legislature had prescribed for the security of the public, and by which at any time the Copartners of the company can be ascertained. - And your Petitioners further shew that in its passage through the House, a similar clause to that in the Imperial Act, by which a Director or other proprietor is rendered a competent witness was rejected : But your Petitioners feel that should it hereafter be considered beneficial to the company, and not injurious to the public, they will not apply in vain therefore to the wisdom of the Colonial Legislature. -

61.
That there have been also appended to the said Act, clauses by which the company are made responsible for an increased rate of interest on non-payments of their notes, and for the liquidation of any note which may be altered ; to which your Petitioners have no serious objection, altho' none similar appears in the Imperial Act. -

Your Petitioners have entered thus largely into the intentions and prospects of the company, in the hope of obtaining the approbation of ~~your~~^{your} Honorable House thereupon, and that you will be induced thereby to concur in passing this bill ; and they further respectfully state that they would be gratified if they could apprise the General Court of Directors in London, of your assent to it by the packet now daily expected, but they presume not to suggest anything further thereupon, confident that your Honorable House will take it into consideration at such time, and adopt such measures in respect to it as may appear to be most beneficial to the province - May it therefore please your Honorable House to take the premises into your favourable consideration , and as in duty bound

Your Petitioners will ever pray . -

Halifax, 21st February, 1837.

James McNab
W. A. Black.
S. N. Binney.

Copyd.
W. A. Black
S. N. Binney

House Objects to Council's Amendments to the Bank of B. N. A. Suit Bill

PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA

MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

1837 - 1838 . Vol. 293. Doc. No. 40.

In the House of Assembly .

20th March 1837.

Resolved - That a further conference be requested with His Majesty's Council on the subject of the amendments proposed to the Bill, entitled an Act to enable a company called the Bank of British North America to sue and be sued in the name of any one of the local directors or of the managers of the branches of the said Bank established or to be established in this Province.

And - That the Committee of this House be instructed to state that in passing it the House were sincere in desiring to Grant to the Bank of British North America the privilege asked vizt - that of suing and of being sued in the name of one instead of in the names of many, more for the convenience of the public than that of the Bank.

The House therefore could not concur in the amendments originally proposed, because they would have effectually crippled the operations of the Bank : They implied on the part of the Legislature disapprobation of the Bank issuing any

1837
20 March

notes to serve as paper money for any amounts whatever even exceeding five pounds, they aggravated into a misdemeanor the merely having a note under this sum in the possession of a shareholder ; they charged the crown officers with the especial duty of prosecuting unfortunatè delinquent members of the Bank while the existing laws only were to operate upon the Halifax Banking Company and the Bank of Nova Scotia , thus leaving them in possession of immunities and advantages of which the amendments deprived the Bank of British North America . Such were the terms on which the mere privilege of suing and being sued with more facility than the law now affords was to be conferred upon this Bank . A law of this character would not have bestowed a boon, its legitimate appellation would have been " An Act to impede the operations of the Bank and to subject its members to pains and penalties ". That to refuse this privilege was the duty of the Legislature if it was considered injurious to the public interests ; and to prohibit the individual^s concerned in this Bank of whom nearly one hundred reside within the Province from Banking at all in Nova Scotia. *is within the power of the Assembly* But that it is far from the intention or the wish of the House to prevent this Bank from going into free and profitable operation, inasmuch as the Hojse conceives that it will be extensively beneficial by the introduction of the system of

cash credits : extending this system and the other advantages of prudent Banking to all parts of the Province : distributing the power, and influence of the Banking institutions now in operation in this Town : by rendering capital available to small dealers at a low rate of interest : and by inducing wealthy capitalists to withdraw their capital from fixed securities and put it at hazard in speculations beneficial to the community as well as themselves.

The amendments were therefore rejected without debate or division . That the modifications of these amendments now proposed leave them nearly as objectionable , as they originally were.

The House hope the Council on consideration will see the propriety of not adhering to their amendments and agree to the Bill as it was originally sent to His Majesty's Council.

It is nearly a literal transcript of the British Act of Parliament conferring upon this Bank in England, the same privilege which is desired in this Province.

It affords more facilities to the Public than to the Company - while the registration of the Shareholder^S gives the Public the means of ascertaining at any time whether its partners are responsible men or otherwise.

The Committee are further to state that by rejecting this Bill the Company will be enabled to transact business without this security to the Public ^{which} the House will regret but for ~~which~~ the House of course will not be

responsible.

The Committee are also ^{to} ~~or~~ state they have not passed without notice the preamble to one ~~of~~ the amendments which ~~the~~ mentions " the good and beneficial "law " regarding the issue of notes under five pounds. But the Bank of British North America is now equally with the other Banks subject to the provisions of this existing law thus approvingly noticed in the said preamble.

And the Committee are lastly to state that if the amendments now proposed to be retained are intended to subject the Bank of British North America to restrictions to which the other Banks are not by law liable they are as the House conceives unjust, as well as unwise, and if they are only intended to reenact the existing law they are entirely unnecessary.

J. Whidden

Clerk.

Clerk
J. Whidden
L. D. [unclear]

Letter to Editor Supporting the Bank of B. N. A.
 On the Bank of British North America.
 Want of Capital, and System of Cash Credits.

Mr. Editor,- No Institution ever before organized in England, with a view to operation in these Colonies, has been the subject of more serious reflection to many, than the Bank, the name of which heads this letter, and which Mr. Carter has been lately preparing to put in action. Ever since the visit of that Gentleman to Halifax, and the nomination of the Provisional Committee here, I have heard it frequently discussed, both at private and public tables; and on several of these occasions have been amused at the curious statements of facts- both as to its objects and tendency- in which some have indulged,- of the danger to be anticipated from its practical influence, which others have represented,- and, lastly, of the potent and unfair competition it is expected to create against the Colonial Capitalists. The friends and stockholders of both our local banks have been active and eloquent in their denunciations, and attack it upon two grounds, viz. that it is a scheme suggested by speculation upon the London Stock Exchange, to create a passing excitement, so as to make early sale of shares; and 2d-an argument not consistent with the first, that surplus British capital may be introduced into the Colonies, in order that an extravagant profit may be reaped, and these profits be then withdrawn to another country. Again-it has been spoken of as a monied Institution, likely to control the Commercial destinies of these Colonies, and opposed to local interests, because to be managed by a Court of Directors in London removed from our control. In a late discussion in the House of Assembly in New Brunswick, its policy was boldly arraigned by the Speaker, Mr. Symonds, and was ably vindicated by Mr. Crane and Mr. Wilmot,-but amid these collisions the public mind remains suspended, and I have waited patiently for some time, in the hope that the subject would be discussed in the Press, and the facts and reasonings adduced necessary to come to a sound conclusion. In the papers of New Brunswick, some articles have appeared upon the subject. Having felt it my duty, from the stake I hold in the Province, to enquire into the history and character of this Institution, I intend in one or two short letters to investigate the influence it is likely to exercise upon our commerce and prosperity. Is it to be productive of good or evil? Will it be equally safe with either of the local Banks? Can it interfere with the fair and legitimate demands for, and profits derived by, the local Capitalists- these are the difficult problems to be solved and upon the answers which can be given - upon the fair argument and refined equities they afford- the public favor and support to the New Institution ought to depend. These enquiries I shall not discuss in order or in separate heads- but leave their solution to the general scope of argument which I intend to pursue.

It is an enterprize, for which the Colonies are indebted to the merchants in London engaged in the Colonial Trade. From the intimate connection between the London, New York, and Canadian Houses - most, if not all of them of any standing, having branches or Agencies in the three countries, it was known that many of the most extensive speculations in the United States were conducted upon English capital. Some of the domestic manufactories there had even derived their funds from these

(continued from page 1.)

foreign sources: and if capital was required in a country, so far advanced in National Wealth, when compared with the Colonies, and by a people not connected with England by political ties and sympathies, it was supposed that an importation or loan of surplus British capital, like the supply of surplus British labour by emigrants, could not fail to exercise a beneficial influence upon the Provinces in British North America. That the Capitalists, who founded the Bank upon this feeling, expected to derive a return or profit for their money, ought not to be denied; and all we Colonists can do to protect our own interests, is to take care to apply for no loan, which will not yield a profit at the time in which it is sought; all our dealings with the Bank will be gratuitous and voluntary, and we need not and ought not to engage in them, unless, while we may benefit others, we have the certain prospect of advancing ourselves. Is not this a sufficient safe-guard? Are not mankind in general, and the order of Merchants first of all, keen and acute enough to see and protect their own interests? It will become a question of pure calculation, and before an account is opened at the Bank, every prudent man ought to - nay, will - make a prospective calculation of the results of his Account Current. It will be the Bank, not its customers, which requires protection.

That the Bank has been formed with a view of benefitting the Colonies cannot be doubted, when we look either to the amount of its capital, or the names of its Directors. Nearly all of the 13 are men of vast wealth, and the Partners of Houses engaged in the Colonial trade. Of its million of capital, three fourths are to be advanced by them, and the Stockholders in Great Britain. One fourth only is set apart to the Colonies. The Board of London Directors have thus a clear interest in promoting their interest, by advancing and protecting Colonial Commerce; and no mode has been proved by experience more effective to accomplish this end, than by the introduction of a board and liberal system of Banking. The establishment can only be rendered subsidiary to the other and more important employments of their capital. The list of its Directors is the best earnest and security for its safety. They are:- George De Bossa Attwood; Edward Blunt, Esq. (one of the most extensive proprietors of the mining company); Robt. Brown; Robert Carter (the agent) a gentleman extensively engaged for many years in the British and Colonial Trade, and thoroughly versed in the principles of Banking; Sir Robert Campbell, Baronet; W. Robert Chapman, a partner of one of the first Houses in Canada; James John Cameron; James Douce, of the firm of Nathaniel Gould and Co.; Oliver Parker; William Medley; Alexander Gillespie, and William Pemberton, the two latter both partners in Canadian Houses of acknowledged standing and connexions, George Richard Robinson, Esq., M.P. Chairman at Lloyds, and of the firm of Robinson, Brooking, Garland & Co. of London and Saint John N.F. a gentleman who has earned the distinction of being Colonial member in the House of Commons, and has exerted his utmost influence to protect the Fisheries from the interference of the French and Americans; and lastly- John Waldron Wright, a banker of large capital and high standing in London. These men may be deceived, their wishes to benefit the Colonies may be frustrated; but that they intend to deceive is a suspicion which no one can entertain or advance. - - - - -

The Bank of

The Bank of British North America will be mainly beneficial to the Province by introducing a new system of accommodation- a freer command of capital to those who require it upon the Scotch system of cash accounts- a system, which, both in that country and in every other in which it has been tried, has had a most beneficial influence upon commerce. It may be explained in a few sentences. At this moment, if a merchant in Halifax required £1,000 for any speculation he had in view, the only way he could obtain it, would be by discounting a note for the sum. He would have to pay the interest in advance- it would in fact be deducted from the amount of the Note, before the money was paid to him. If the speculation should fail, and the cash not be required; or if any payment of some of his debts were unexpectedly made to him, he could not apply the money to the discharge of this debt, until the note became due. For three months the interest upon the £1,000, even if unproductive and lying in his chest, would hang upon him like a dead weight. The system of cash accounts is to remedy the evil. A trader, a young man of good credit beginning business, gives security to the Bank- a bond with one or two sureties- and upon this he receives credit, the right of drawing, for £500 or £1000. He may draw £100 or £500 one day, and repay it the next. He pays interest for the money only while in his hands. If he draws £ 500, he may discharge it by gradual, and therefore easy payments of £10, £ 20, or £ 100, as the money flows back to him. Interest is calculated by a debtor and creditor account. His cash credit becomes as much a part of capital as if it were his own; and it has been found by experience that the system, while it has conferred vast facility upon the customers, has equally advanced the interests, by extending the trade, of the Bank. It was introduced into Ireland by the Provincial Bank- an institution founded in London- and the effects have exceeded the most sanguine expectation. In Scotland it has been the foundation of many an industrious man's fortune. The number of cash credits in Scotland is estimated at 12,000, and the extent of capital thus afforded to the middling and industrious classes, is now calculated at five millions. Independent of their effects upon trade, they are represented to have had an auspicious influence "in producing and encouraging habits of frugality and economy"- two virtues much required in Nova Scotia. If the Bank of British North America contemplated the introduction of no new feature of Banking save the system of cash credits, it would be entitled to favor and encouragement; but there are other benefits promised, equally, if not more important than this. I shall resume the subject next week, and am, in the meantime,

Your Obedient Servant.

THE NOVASCOTIAN, or COLONIAL HERALD. April 13, 1837.

MS
 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1837.

MS
 p. 268.

20/1/207
 Halifax, August 23, 1837.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN BANK.

MS
 We extract, from a Newspaper called "the Economist, and Joint
 Stock Banker's Journal," recently commenced in
 England, the following Report and proceedings relat-
 ive to this Institution. They will be interesting,
 not only to the Stockholders, but to the public
 generally: -

MS
 On Tuesday the first annual meeting of the propriet-
 ors of this undertaking, established for the purpose of ex-
 tending the facilities of trade between Great Britain and the
 British North American Colonies, was held at the Company's
 House in St. Helen's place. Mr. O. Farrar in the chair.

The Chairman stated that the information the Direct-
 ors had to communicate relative to the affairs of the British
 North American Bank had been drawn up, and would be communi-

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communicated in the report which would be read by the secretary. The directors, as well as himself, would be ready afterwards to give the proprietors the utmost possible information relative to the state of the affairs of the establishment. He would now only observe, that the directors entertain the strongest opinion that the institution would ultimately be productive of the greatest advantage to the colonies and to the proprietors.

The secretary read the report: -

The first Annual General Meeting of the Proprietors of the Bank of British North America is held, pursuant to the Deed of Settlement, to receive from the Court of Directors a report of the proceedings from the formation of the Company, and their views with respect to its present condition and future prospects.

The Court deem it advisable, at the commencement of this, their first report, to recall to the recollection of the proprietors the objects which the projectors of this Bank

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had in view at its establishment, and the grounds upon which they recommend it to the public. These were

That the British Colonies in North America are rapidly increasing in population and commercial importance.

That a great demand for additional banking facilities exists in those colonies. That in consequence of the high rate of interest, and the fluctuations in the rates of exchange, the banking business is very lucrative there.

That the plan of this Company, whereby the principal portion of the capital is to be furnished from England, is at the same time beneficial to the British capitalist, by giving him a greater profit than he can obtain at home, and to the colonist by furnishing additional capital, which in a new country is always desirable.

And that it will tend, in no small degree, to cement the connection between these valuable colonies and the Mother Country.

The capital of the Bank consists of 20,000 shares

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of 501 each, of which one-fourth part, agreeably to the prospectus, was reserved for distribution in the colonies, and the remaining 15,000 shares was allotted at home.

The 5000 shares reserved for the colonies were appropriated by the Court among the different provinces, with a view of creating as general an interest as possible, in favor of the establishment. In some places the application for shares greatly exceeded, whilst in others the demand fell short of, the number limited; and the result is, that the deposit, together with the premiums of exchange affixed at the time of allotment, has been paid upon 3427 shares, and 1573 remain unappropriated, which have been left at the disposal of the several Local Boards, the Court having reason to expect that a considerable demand for shares will arise in the colonies when the different branches are in full operation therein; and that these shares may then be so disposed of as to strengthen the influence and connexion of the Bank at the place where its business is carried on.

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The application made for shares at home greatly exceeded the number that the Directors had at their disposal, and they endeavor to use all possible care in the allotment to place them in the hands of persons of respectability who would probably be permanent holders; but notwithstanding the caution used in this respect, out of 15,000 shares allotted in the United Kingdom, the deposits on 1182 shares has not been paid by the public. These shares have been accordingly forfeited, and the Directors do not intend to dispose of them until they see the means of doing so to the manifest advantage of the Bank, with especial regard for that of the present proprietors; and any profit that may be made by their disposal will be carried to the general funds of the Company.

The proprietors are already aware that one of the first steps taken by the Court of Directors, was to arrange with Robert Carter, Esq. one of their body, to proceed as their commissioner to America, and they have great ~~satisfac-~~
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satisfaction in reporting to the proprietors the zeal and ability with which Mr. Carter has executed his important mission.

He has succeeded in forming many valuable connexions for the Bank in the intelligent and influential gentlemen who have accepted the office of Local Directors, and by the accession of a numerous respectable body of shareholders in the colonies, he has collected and furnished the Court with copious information respecting the existing Banks, the laws by which they are regulated, and the modes of conducting banking business in the colonies, and in the adjoining states of the American Union; the rates at which various coins pass current and are a legal tender; the rates of interest and the fluctuations in exchange; the deposits, circulation, and profits of the several Banks; all which information will be highly valuable to the Court in conducting the affairs of the Bank; and from which they are enabled to assert with great confidence that the views originally entertained with reference to

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the operations of this Bank are fully confirmed, and that its capital will be both profitably and safely employed. It has been gratifying to them also to learn, that the establishment of this Bank is approved almost universally by the commercial interest in all the Colonies. The Directors cannot conclude this part of their report without expressing their high sense of the benefit which the exertions of Mr. Carter have conferred on the establishment.

Branches of this Bank are already in operation at Montreal and Quebec, in London, Canada, Toronto, in Upper Canada, and St. John's, Newfoundland; and the necessary arrangements have been completed for the immediate commencement of business at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and St. John, New Brunswick.

Circumstances have enabled the Court of Directors to employ the amount of deposits at much higher rates of interest than are generally obtainable. The produce of the funds in this country, (without including what has been received in

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the Colonies on the same amount,) is more than sufficient to defray all the expenses incurred in the formation of the Company and of the London Establishment up to the present period.

The paramount object of the Court has been, and will continue to be, that of obtaining the utmost possible degree of security in all their operations. With this view they have determined at present only to open the six branches, which have been referred to, and to employ in these branches comparatively small amounts of capital - at the same time they are satisfied that it will be to the interest of the Bank that its establishment should be extended either as separate branches or as agencies to several other important places in the colonies, shortly after the main branches shall have gone into full operation; for which purpose preliminary arrangements have already been made at Kingston, in Upper Canada, Frederickton and Miramichi, New Brunswick, Pictou, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, while the extending business

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of the principal branches will require gradual, but considerable increase of capital.

It must be obvious that the present paid-up capital is insufficient to carry on the business even within the prudential limits which the Directors have prescribed to themselves; and they doubt not that the proprietors are fully prepared for the announcement which they now make, of their intention to call forthwith for another instalment of £10 per share.

During the last session of the Imperial Parliament, an act was passed authorising the bank "to sue and be sued" in the name of one of the Directors, or the Secretary, and affording other legal facilities within the United Kingdom; and acts conferring similar privileges in Upper Canada and Prince Edward Island, have been granted by the Local Legislature. Applications for similar enactments were also made in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and although they have not hitherto proved successful, the Court have reason to expect that the acts will ~~be~~

be obtained in these Provinces in their next session.

An application was also prepared for presentation to the Legislature of Lower Canada, which could not be proceeded with, on account of the sudden separation of the House of Assembly without transacting any business.

In the mean time, the Court have satisfaction in stating that the laws generally in the colonies are favourable to the operations which they intend to carry on, and that they have adopted arrangements, under competent legal advice, for conducting the details of business, which they are confident will obviate all the difficulties that might be apprehended.

In conclusion, the Court of Directors have only to express their conviction that the expectations of the friends of this establishment will be fully realised; and that the Bank of British North America is destined, at no distant period, to assume an important position among the institutions of the country, to promote in an eminent degree the ~~commer-~~
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commercial interests of the colonies, and to be highly remunerative to the shareholders.

The Chairman observed that it would probably be convenient, before any proprietors made observations upon the report, and it might afford pleasure to the meeting, to hear a statement from Mr. Carter - (hear, hear.)

Mr. Carter rose, and addressed the meeting to the following effect: -

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As another reason for believing that this establishment will succeed, it is stated 'that a great demand for banking facilities exists in the Colonies.' That this is the fact I can aver, from what came under my own observation, and the communications I held with commercial men in all the provinces; it is also proved by the numerous applications made to the different legislatures for bank charters or acts of ~~incorpor-~~

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incorporation. No less than eleven applications were made to the Legislature of Upper Canada while I was in Toronto, for the establishment of new banks, or the extension of the capitals of those already in existence; and all the banks in Lower Canada propose to double their capitals. In New Brunswick, most of the Banks have recently increased their capital; but still a great want of banking accomodation exists for rendering legitimate facilities to trade and commerce. A general complaint of the want of discounts prevailed in all the Colonies. I was informed by the Directors of the Bank of Montreal in January last, that on each discount day - that is, twice a week - they had unexceptionable paper to the amount of 80,000l. laid before them, and their means would not allow them to discount more than about 20,000l. At Quebec, a respectable merchant and bank director informed me, that he had constantly, during the last year, about 20,000l. of good bills lying by him which he could not get discounted. The next point in the report to which I will refer, is this: -

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'That in consequence of the high rate of interest, and the fluctuations in the rates of exchange, the banking business is very lucrative there.' The shareholders will all agree with me that this is one of the best reasons that can be given for the establishment of this bank. The rate of interest as settled by law is six per cent. and I believe there has not been an instance of money being borrowed at a less rate, but it is often worth more than six per cent. and there are means there as well here to evade the law, and no doubt a higher rate is often obtained. The fluctuations in the rates of exchange form a very considerable means of profit to the Colonial Banks. In New York during the past year, and before the present derangement of commercial affairs began, the premium on bills on London varied from 6 1-4 to 10 per cent.; recently it has ranged from 14 to 16 per cent. and even higher. At Quebec, it has been from 6 to 11 1-2 per cent.; at New Brunswick, from 4 to 12 per cent. It will be observed that great profits must accrue to a bank which employs a ~~per-~~

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portion of its capital in the purchase of exchange at a premium of 4 per cent. and redraws at 12. In Nova Scotia, the exchange on London has been more steady, probably in consequence of British silver being current there; it had ranged during the year from 11 to 14 1-2 per cent. To show more distinctly the profits which may be made by Banks in exchange transactions conducted with judgement, I will state what were the rates at each place during two months of last year: -

At New York in May, 7 1-2. In July, 7 1-4 to 8.

At Quebec 7 to 9. ' 11

At New Brunswick 4 to 7. ' 11

At Nova Scotia 11 1-2. ' 12 1-2

The profits that may be fairly expected from this establishment in due time, may be inferred from the dividends paid by the local banks; but I by no means wish to be understood as holding out such dividends as an immediate result, for I am quite satisfied that the division of large profits by a new bank, must necessarily involve an unsafe mode of

business.

business. The lowest dividends paid by any of the banks in the colonies, is 8 per cent. per annum; and the highest 14 per cent. One bank has paid the latter rate in dividend and bonus annually for the last six years, and has now a considerable surplus. The extent of the banking capital, at present paid up, in all the North American Colonies, is rather more than £1,500,000 currency; which sustains an average circulation of about £1,200,000; and the banks hold average deposits to the amount of upwards of £300,000; the whole of which, excepting some £10,000 to 20,000, is held by them without the payment of any interest whatever. The aggregate amount of loans and discounts, made by the banks to their customers, is about £2,700,000. From these premises, the ordinary banking profits in the Colonies may be readily calculated, but the most important and lucrative part of the business is, that which has been already referred to - an item of profit unknown in the banking business this side of the water - the fluctuations in the rates of exchange. It is only

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those establishments which have large capitals, that can enter into this branch of business to any extent; and no establishment in the Colonies, having local connexions only, can transact it to such an advantage as we can, in consequence of the mother bank being in London, and its own branches in all the Colonies. The mere commission of 1-2 per cent. which the Colonial Bank pays to its commercial agent in London, will produce more than enough to pay the whole expense of our establishment here. -

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One of the results of my mission, as stated by the Directors, is that I have "succeeded in forming many valuable connexions for the Bank," and in proof of that assertion I may refer with confidence to the names of the gentlemen who have accepted the office of local Directors. In most places which I have visited, some of them left the direction of the

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Local Banks to join us; and you may be assured that I did not choose the worst of the Directors of those Banks; indeed, in several cases I may say they were the most efficient men they had. This was done without any ill feeling on the part of the Banks, and shows both that we were favourably thought of by the community in general, and that the Directors themselves considered our Bank of greater importance than their own. At Quebec two Directors of the Local Banks have joined our establishment, one in Toronto, three in St. John, New Brunswick, and two in Halifax. The shareholders in the Colonies are both an influential and numerous body; for it was my principal object in allotting the shares to spread the interest of the Bank as widely as possible, and I refused to issue a large number to any individual. Of the 1572 shares remaining unappropriated in the Colonies, about 700 arose from a mistake in reserving a larger number of Newfoundland than could reasonably be expected to be taken in that island. In the provinces which I first visited, I distributed the whole number of shares which

I was authorised to allot there, and applications were made for a much greater quantity. Four thousand two hundred shares only were placed at my disposal, and those which remain on hand are chiefly of the portion reserved for Upper Canada; and the backwardness in taking them may be very satisfactorily accounted for. I did not reach that province until the month of December, at which time the advices from England brought out our shares at a considerable discount; and although it was frequently remarked that the price in the London market was no criterion of the real value of the shares, and that they were better able to judge of it there, yet it may readily be supposed that the circumstance influenced parties in applying for shares, as they saw that by sending orders home they could acquire them under par, at which my issues were of course made. But there was another reason why they were not so freely taken up in Upper Canada as in other places; money is always most in demand in that country during the winter, and I knew that many persons who were desirous to become shareholders

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had parted with their money before I arrived there. On the other hand, most of those who did take shares, were prepared to pay up the whole amount of £50 each, at once, and expressed disappointment at my being able to receive no more than 20 per cent. of the amount

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The next statement to which I wish to advert is -
"That the capital of the Bank will be safely and profitably employed." That it will be profitably employed there can be no doubt, after the details which I have laid before the meeting, shewing the profits made by the other establishments in the Colonies, from which our own may fairly be inferred. A few circumstances which I am enabled to bring to the notice of the meeting, will, I think, prove that the capital will be also safely employed. The Bank of Montreal, doing business to a large amount, and having assets in bills running to the ~~extent~~

extent of £700,000 at a time, shews less than £4,000 of debts unpaid and over due, and of which a few hundreds only are supposed to be bad. The Bank of New Brunswick, which has existed for thirteen years, passing through the memorable period of 1826, when so many of the first mercantile establishments there were destroyed, has never had but one bad debt, and that to the amount of £36 - (Hear, hear) In fact, the merchants in England are the great sufferers by failures in the Colonies; and if the Bank Directors there do their duty, they have always the means of obtaining ample security for their advances. It is true, that some years since a bad system of doing business was followed in some of the Colonies: the Directors took an undue share of accommodation for themselves and their friends, and heavy losses to the banks followed. This is no longer permitted in those banks, and in our case it will be effectually prevented by the stringent regulations laid down, which will not allow any of our local Directors to take more accommodation than is given to other customers

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of the bank - (hear.)

Another point has reference to the laws in the Colonies, as applicable to our intended operations. As no act of the Legislature had passed in our favour, when I was there, I considered it an important part of my duty to inquire into the state of the laws on banking, and for that purpose I addressed myself to the several governors, to official men, to influential members of the different Houses of Legislature, besides taking competent legal advice, and I can assert, there is not in all the Colonies any law whatever to impede our operations, except in one, where small notes are prohibited; but this applies to other banks equally with ours.

There is no law to prevent our going into full operation, without either an act of the Legislature or Charter. The only inconvenience which existed was, that by the common law, in case of proceedings being requisite, the names of all the proprietors must be used; this, however, has been ~~obviated~~

obviated by the means we have taken by which the name of a director or manager will be made use of, should the necessity of suing arise. This course was pursued for years by several of the banks in the Colonies, before they procured acts of incorporation; and I feel confident that no inconvenience will be felt by us on that ground (Hear, hear.)

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A Proprietor said, that although it was satisfactory to learn that no legal difficulties were apprehended in the management of the Company's affairs in the Colonies, without acts of the Legislatures being passed, he would be glad to receive more precise information than was contained in the Report as to the result of the applications which had been made to the Colonial Legislatures, and the probability of acts being obtained in their ensuing sessions.

Mr. Carter stated in reply, that he had no doubts

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acts, authorising the Company to sue and be sued, would be shortly passed in all the Colonies, except, perhaps, in Lower Canada, the political circumstances of which province were well known to all the gentlemen present, and where it was possible the Legislature might not proceed with the dispatch of business for years to come. In Upper Canada the Company's act had received the royal assent. A similar act had also been passed in Prince Edward's Island, which contained an exclusive privilege in favour of this Bank. By a law of the island, the circulation of bank-notes under £5 was prohibited, and the clause in question authorised the issue of the notes of this Bank without any limitation. In New Brunswick, the third reading of the bill in the House of Assembly, by some mismanagement, had been moved in the absence of either five or seven of its warmest supporters, among them Messrs. Crane & Wilmot, who had been sent as delegates from the House to the Imperial Government, and the numbers being equal, the bill was thrown out by the casting vote

vote of the Speaker. A majority of the Legislative Council, or the House of Lords, in this province, was understood to be in favour of the bill. He was assured by Mr. Crane that it will certainly pass in the next session. (Hear.) In Nova Scotia the bill passed the Lower House almost unanimously, only five members having been opposed to it; but it happened that in the Legislative Council there, which consists of only twelve members, three are partners in a private banking company in Halifax, and the bill was thrown out. All the accounts subsequently received from that province, lead to the conclusion that the Council will not continue long opposed to public opinion on this subject; and there can be no doubt but the Bank will acquire influence for itself when it shall have gone into full operation.

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Notice of the Commencement of Business of the Bank of B. N. A. (Halifax)

913
 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1837.
 p.299. 20 Sept 1837

[Signature]
 Halifax, September 20, 1837.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Halifax, 13th September, 1837.

[Signature]
 The Branch of the Bank of British North America, established at this place, will be opened for business on Wednesday next, the 20th instant.

Hours of Business, from 10 to 3 o'clock.

Days of Discount, Tuesday's and Friday's.

It is requested that all Notes offered for Discount, may be left at the Bank, the day previous to the discount day, before 12 o'clock, addressed under cover, to the Accountant.

Money may be lodged at the Bank free of any charge. Terms upon which business will be transacted, generally, may be known upon application at the Bank.

S. N. BINNEY, Manager.

Halifax Banking Co. Seeks Redress for Slanderous Remarks

To the Honorable the House of Assembly now convened at Halifax, the humble petitions of the Halifax Banking Company, Freeholders of the County of Halifax,

Humbly Sheweth,

That your petitioners have seen with surprize in the Acadian Recorder of Saturday last, the report of a Speech stated to have been made by an hon. member of your house, reflecting upon the character and conduct of your Petitioners. That while your Petitioners can wholly disregard the vile slanders and calumnies of anonymous writers, they feel it a duty they owe to themselves and to the community of which they are members, to repeal the unfounded charges of a member of your hon. house. That hon. member is stated to have said, in references to your Petitioners as follows: "There was immediately raised against the old Company, the first Institution in the Province, (which may be said to have long ruled the whole country and ruled it truly with a "rod of Iron,") against this congregation of monopolists, was raised a powerful rival," and in a subsequent Speech of the same hon. member, he took occasion to state that "had not that Bill passed"(alluding to the Bill to Incorporate the Bank of Nova Scotia) "had not the Legislature been convinced of the change for the better which the Provincial prosperity would undergo by creating a rivalry of monied Insitutions, the old Halifax Bank, with all its exclusiveness, and with all its monopoly, would have controlled the enterprise of the community to this very day. He was happy that the exclusiveness of that Institution had not been preserved, that wise Legislation had raised up others for similar purposes to stand as a check and a guide upon it that the community might not be subject to the caprices of illiberal policy." While your Petitioners wish to express themselves in that decorous and respectful language ever due to the Representatives of the people, they wish it to be understood that they give their negative to these foul aspersions in the strongest terms which the English language can supply. That a Representative of the people should enjoy freedom of speech, your Petitioners will readily admit. That even a stipendiary officer should in the discharge of his office be permitted to abuse the unhappy culprit at the bar need not be denied; but that the counsel of an English Joint Stock Company has the privilege of dealing in calumny and detraction cannot so readily be conceded. Your Petitioners, during the period of their co-partnership, now more than twelve years, have never asked a favor of your honorable house or the grant of any immunity or privilege for their Establishment, and trust that your honorable house will see the impropriety of taking occasion, in the discussion of a Bill for the benefit of the said Joint Stock Company, to vilify the character of your Petitioners. If Banks are injurious to the interests of your constituents, it is in your power to prohibit their operations. If beneficial let public favor decide which is the most worthy of support. Your Petitioners only contend against the principle, that it is expedient to vilify the character of a Bank established by natives of this

*File Nova Scotia
27 July 1838*

*Letter contra
dicting statements
here - (falsified)
follow*

*1838
15 July*

*1838
15 July*

(*concluded page 182*)

English ←

Province, upon their own responsibility, to pave the way for a Joint Stock Company, under the paramount control of Directors resident in England, nor can your Petitioners conceive that the persons who compose the Joint Stock Bank, possessing the noble feelings of Englishmen, have either authorized or will be pleased with this gratuitous attack upon your Petitioners. The learned gentlemen who charged your Petitioners with a congregation of monopolists, will please to explain what sort of monopoly private Bankers possess, when the way was open for fifty others to have established similar Institutions and when many persons were invited to join them in their establishment, but who declined until after the dangers had been explored, when they joined the chartered Institution. That this Institution has ruled the country with a "rod of Iron," or used illiberal policy towards those who dealt with them, let the records of the Supreme Court testify. It may be there be seen that but one suit has been instituted by this Company, and that was to try a question of Forgery. They had but one suit brought against them, and that was by the Bank of Nova Scotia, which refused to receive Treasury notes, in payment of a demand which it had against this Company. This Company feel their character to be as precious as it can be to those whose dignity and families are supported by the public purse, and claim to have an equal right to redress when unjustly assailed.

*At the Court of the
 the 1st of March 1838
 in the
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That your Petitioners recognize in your honorable body the guardians of the rights and liberties of the people- and the redress of their grievances, as well as the watchful supervisors of the manners, characters and conduct of the people, jealous of their honor and rejoicing in their prosperity and happiness. With these sentiments of respect and confidence in you honorable house, your petitioners appeal to your equity even against the attacks of your most honored member. It may be said, that we should so live and act, as to defy the tongue of slander; true! & but let it be remembered, that the venom of the serpent will corrupt the purest blood. Therefore, under a deep sense of injury sustained in the observations made in the speeches alluded to, your Petitioners earnestly pray that your Honorable house will call upon the member who made the charge to bring forward his witnesses and support his allegation; unless, upon more diligent enquiry and mature reflection, he shall withdraw his charges as publicly as he has made them; and that such other, and further relief may be afforded them, as they may appear to merit.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Henry Cogswell,
 William Pryor,
 Enos Collins,
 J. Tobin,
 Martin Gay Black.

Halifax, 15th February, 1838.

Having been a co-partner of the Halifax Banking Company at the time the Act for the Incorporation of the Nova Scotia Bank was passed, I have no hesitation in declaring that the charges complained of in the foregoing petition, are unfounded in fact, and I have therefore equal ground of complaint.

Joseph Allison.

[Handwritten signature]

In the debate

In the debate of the other day the general subject of Banking was under consideration. The bill for the Bank of British North America was the same as that which ^{had} passed almost unanimously in the last session, and which was destroyed by restrictions, in the name of amendments, admirably formed for that purpose, in the other end of the building, where the concoctor of this petition, the first signer of it, Mr. Cogswell, then had a seat; and the friends of the bill were in consequence obliged to abandon it for that session. This mode of opposition to the establishing of a Bank was not new, it was exerted when the act for incorporating the Bank of Nova Scotia was before this Assembly. That gentlemen had then an opportunity of manufacturing amendments to that bill, and no small degree of ingenuity was displayed on that occasion, and nothing but the manly perseverance of this house forced that bill through the Legislature. I advocated that bill, and in the debate used that freedom of speech which I have done on all occasions, without intending to give personal offence. The spirit of opposition was then expended in Legislation, and no notice was taken of the free language used in debate in this house. Now the scene is changed, and instead of his silent opposition in the Council Chamber, the framer of this petition dares to present himself before this Assembly with an insolent charge against myself. I admit my train of reasoning was not correctly given by the reporter, but I blame him not, and as it stands the Bank of Nova Scotia have more cause to be offended than the Petitioners. I never meant to undervalue the security the Bank of Nova Scotia offered to the public.

I stated in my place that I was satisfied with it, and I considered it as secure as the Bank of England. But in reference to the unpaid capital of the new Bank, if not so great, I still consider that the security was ample, as the public had the personal responsibility of every member and Stockholders, which they had not in the other; and upon the same principle when the honorable member for Cornwallis proposed a committee to enquire into the capital of the Halifax Bank, the Bank of the Petitioners, I opposed it, and denied the right of the House to such an enquiry, as they were a private Banking Company composed of wealthy individuals, who were personally liable for their engagements, and the public were safe in dealing with them. And I well remember the language made use of by me in the debate, and which is different from what is charged; it was as follows:- "When the Bill was brought in for incorporating the Bank of Nova Scotia, we heard much of the evils which would arise from having two monied institutions in the metropolis. I was of a different opinion- I was aware the second bank was necessary, as no individual could contend with the old Banking Company, and that nothing short of another monied institution could controul a monopoly already powerful, and one which, if not restrained, might rule the country with a rod and iron. And speaking of both Banks, and the propriety of establishing a third, my words were not as stated, that the community had been ground down, but that the community might be seriously injured by the Institutions already in existence, who had alone the power to cramp industry by restricting their issues.

When the hon. gentlemen from Cornwallis said that the old bank

~~had not done~~

~~(continued from page 2.)~~

had not dared to meddle with the Province paper, I gave him my opinion on the subject, - an opinion which to this hour I entertain, and they must hear it, that they were the cause of our being obliged to fund thousands and tens of thousands of our paper, that they withdrew it from circulation, and issued their own in its place, that our paper was carefully locked up from accident, and returned safe to the treasury to bear an interest, and theirs exposed to wear and tear, and all the accidents incident to such a currency, of which they were to reap the advantage. And I firmly believe that the funded notes, which form a principal part of our debt, but for this Bank would have remained in circulation to this day. I do not deny to the members of that Bank the right to do as they have done, but I assure them that neither their wealth nor their influence shall deter me from expressing my opinion as often as I shall think proper, upon all public measures connected with them.

~~THE NOVASCOTIAN, or COLONIAL HERALD. February 22, 1838.~~

Second Annual Report of the Directors of the Bank of B. N. A.

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 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1838.

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 5/6/1838
 16 Aug 1838
 p. 260.

Halifax, August 16, 1838.

REPORT

Of the Directors of the Bank of British North America, to the
Proprietors, at their second yearly general meeting, on
Tuesday the 5th June, 1838.

On meeting the Proprietors for the second time, after an interval of unparalleled embarrassment in the monetary affairs of the American Continent, the Directors are happy to be able to present to them a Report of the progress of the Bank, more favorable than under the circumstances might perhaps have been anticipated.

The Branches at Halifax Nova Scotia, and St. John, New Brunswick, which were referred to in the last Report, as being then in preparation, were opened on the 11th September, and 4th of October last, respectively, and the business transacted at those places, and at the Branches previously opened at Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec, has been perfectly ~~satisfac-~~
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satisfactory; the Newfoundland branch alone, having hitherto, from the small amount of its transactions, failed to realize the expectations which had been formed respecting it.

Officers have been recently appointed for sub-branches at Fredericton, Miramichi, and Pictou, at which places the business of the Bank will be shortly commenced, and the Directors contemplate the opening of an establishment at Kingston, Upper Canada.

Arrangements have been concluded with the Provincial Bank of Ireland, and with the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, by which the greatest facilities are afforded to emigrants and others for the transmission of funds to America through the branches and agencies of this Bank.

It has also been arranged between the Directors of this Bank and those of the Colonial Bank, that the branches of the two establishments shall be authorised to draw upon each other, which it is hoped will not only prove mutually

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beneficial, but also considerably facilitate the intercourse between the North American and West India Colonies.

The Directors have the pleasure to state, that Acts in favor of this Bank have been now obtained from the Provincial Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, containing all the powers and privileges for which they had applied. In the only remaining Province, Lower Canada, where the disturbed state of the country had prevented the meeting of the Provincial Assembly, the expiration of the charters of the other Banks has placed all Banking Institutions on a footing of legal equality, but the Governor and Special Council having been invested with the requisite authority, the necessary application for an Act in favor of this Bank has been made with every prospect of a successful result.

In the Report of the last General Meeting, it was mentioned, that of the shares at that time unappropriated, there were grounds for expecting a large proportion would be taken up in the Colonies; and it was also stated, that the ~~remainder~~

remainder would not be disposed of unless to the manifest advantage of the Bank, with especial regard to that of the present Proprietors. The deranged state of affairs in America, and the low price quoted for the shares in this country, have hitherto prevented a demand in the colonies to the anticipated extent; and the Directors have reason to believe, that the shares held by the Proprietors will produce as much capital as will, for a considerable time be required, and that it is for the advantage of the bank, that none of the shares on hand shall now be issued. In order, therefore, to prevent the frequent, and in some respects, embarrassing applications which they apprehend might otherwise be made to them, a Resolution has been passed by a Special Court of Directors in the following terms.

"That the forfeited and unappropriated Shares, referred to in the Report presented to the Proprietors on the 27th June, 1837, be continued to be held by the Directors for account of the Company, and that no portion of those Shares

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be issued until after the whole capital of £50 per Share shall have been paid upon the Shares which have been appropriated, but that after that period the same may be disposed of at the discretion of the Directors for the benefit of the Company."

The derangement of the monetary affairs of the United States, having caused the Banks in New York to suspend payment in specie, on 10th May, 1837, the example set by that city, the centre of so large a proportion of the business transactions of the western hemisphere, was necessarily and simultaneously followed by almost all parts of the United States, and of the British North American provinces; at that period the Branches of this Bank had not commenced the issue of their notes, and it has not since been deemed expedient to issue them, except only in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, where, from specie payments being continued, the same motive for withholding them did not exist. The detriment thus incurred by the want of a circulation, has been counterbalanced

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by the profit resulting to the Bank from the high rate of exchange during the last year, occasioned by the general suspension of specie payments; and the Directors have now reason to believe, from their latest advices, that their Branches will shortly be enabled to commence the issue of their notes, and make their legitimate proportion of profit by their circulation.

The accession of the Banks to the Money Market of the Colonies, at a period of so much pressure, must necessarily have been felt as a sensible relief, and the Directors doubt not that it will have increased the good feelings previously existing among the mercantile community in favor of this Establishment.

It is highly gratifying to notice that very few failures of consequence have occurred in the Colonies notwithstanding the trying times through which they have recently passed, and so far as they are at present informed, the Directors have reason to believe, that by none of them has

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this Bank experienced loss, which they attribute to the judgment and discretion of their local Directors and Officers.

With reference to the result of the operations of the Bank, now to be for the first time laid before the Proprietors, it may be proper to remark that on account of the distance at which the business is transacted, and in order to ensure greater accuracy, it has been determined that the accounts shall be made up to the end of the year, viz. to 31st December 1837.

The Branches now in operation were opened on the following days, viz.

Newfoundland	15 December, 1836.
Montreal	13 March, 1837.
Quebec	21 March, 1837.
Toronto	13 June, 1837.
Halifax	11 September, 1837.
St. John, New Brunswick	4 October, 1837.

The expenses in London before 1st June, and in the

~~Colonies~~

Colonies before the opening of the respective Branches, including the cost of the Deed of Settlement, the Act of Parliament, and Mr. Carter's mission to the Colonies, together with all the outlay incurred in building vaults, and, altering, repairing, and furnishing premises, have been carried to the account of preliminary expenses, of which a portion amounting to one fifth, has been already paid off, and the Directors propose that the whole of the balance shall be liquidated within the space of five years.

The Directors have deemed it advisable to place only to the account of Bank property, the original cost of premises held in fee, and the cost of Iron Safes, the value of which is not subject to deterioration.

With these explanations, the Directors proceed to submit to the Proprietors the following summary of the accounts, which will, they trust, be considered satisfactory.

The net profit to 31st December, 1837, after deducting all current expenses in London, and at the Branches, a

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portion of the preliminary expenses incurred in the establishment of the Company as before stated, an amount for premium of exchange, sufficient to remit, under the most adverse circumstances, the Capital back from the Colonies to England, and an ample allowance for doubtful debts, is £21,169 17s. 7d.; and the Directors have much gratification in announcing, that it is their intention to pay, on and after the 9th July next, a half-yearly dividend of 3 per cent., being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, on the paid up Capital of the Bank.

Notice of Arrangement Between Colonial Bank and Bank of B. N. A. for Granting Drafts

Bank of British North America.
(Halifax Branch)

Notice is hereby given, that in accordance with arrangement concluded between the Directors of this Bank and those of the Colonial Bank, this Bank is now authorised to grant Drafts on the Branches of the Colonial Bank viz.

Barbadoes,
Demerara,
Trinidad,
Antigua,
Dominica,
Grenada,
St. Lucia,
St. Kitts,
St. Vincent,
Tobago,
Berbice,
St. Thomas,
Porto Rico,
St. Croix,
Kingston,
Montego Bay, } JAMAICA.
Falmouth,
Savanna La Mar,

For Sums of Sterling Money payable in the Currency of the Colony on which they are granted, at the current Bank rate of exchange for Bills on London at 60 days sight.

S. N. BINNEY, Manager,
Halifax Branch.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 16, 1838.

~~THE NOVASCOTIAN, or COLONIAL HERALD. September 6, 1838.~~

*The Novascotian
6 Sept. 1838*

*1838
16 Aug*

ALLISON AND CUNARD RETIRE FROM THE HALIFAX BANKING CO.

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 The Novascotian
 or
 Colonial Herald.
 1836.

p. 242.

~~5/4/1836~~
 Halifax, August 3, 1836.

THE HALIFAX BANK. - We observe, by advertizements published in yesterday's Gazette, that the Copartnership under which this Establishment has been carried on for several years, will expire on the 31st day of August next. The Business of Banking will be continued, by six of the former firm, (from the 1st of September,) who "respectfully solicit a continuance of public favour and support." The names omitted in the new firm are those of Messrs. Allison & Cunard.