

cent per annum in quarterly payments on July first, October first and December first.

My reason for making this suggestion is that the clause should be more specific as to dates of payment. Under the present system, statements are sent out and returns sent in at varying periods; a man may receive his statement months ahead of his next door neighbour, and when they begin to compare notes there is dissatisfaction all round. The change which I suggest would, I submit, be of advantage to the Taxation Department as well as to the taxpayer, because it would be an inducement to the department to send out their tax bills on or before a certain date. If it is intended that the department shall not send out statements before the first payment is made, then the taxpayer may send in his return with his first instalment, or the entire amount if he chooses, on the first specific date named; or, if he pays only the first instalment, may pay the balance as set forth in the suggested amendment. It would be a great advantage to large corporations as well as to individuals of considerable income if the payments were spread over the entire year. I think that the adoption of this suggestion would be a decided improvement.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The hon. member for Joliette (Mr. Denis) cites a case of hardship which he has run across in his practice as a lawyer. He does not know whether he did the right thing as a lawyer, but I think he is quite of the opinion that he did the wrong thing as a legislator, and he now wants to get the right thing done. I hasten to set his mind entirely at rest in connection with arrears of 1917 and 1918. In those years very many people did not know much about the Act; it was entirely new, and there was much doubt about it. Consequently, we are not seeking to penalize any who have not made their returns, so long as they are honest now and tell us the truth. But the time has come when they ought to tell the truth, and if they do not tell the truth they will be hurt sooner or later. What I mean is this: There are still people who have not paid their taxes for the years 1917 and 1918. Perhaps not to-day or to-morrow or the day after, but sooner or later, they will be caught. If any man chooses to come forward, make his return for 1919 and tell the truth also with regard to 1917 and 1918, he will not be punished in respect of the arrears; he still has the opportunity to make the returns for 1917 and 1918 so that

my hon. friend can without fear advise his client to do the honest and proper thing.

I agree with much that the ex-Minister of Labour (Mr. Crothers) said. All tax laws are more or less technical and difficult to understand, and of all tax laws the graduated income tax is probably the most complicated, particularly when it is a new tax. There is no doubt that a certain amount of difficulty is experienced in arriving at exactly what amount of income tax ought to be paid. Parliament went some way last year in setting out in the Act of 1919 a pretty clear schedule, showing plainly how the percentages of payments increased, as I recollect the matter, in \$2,000 spreads. I do not think a lawyer would find very much difficulty in figuring out the taxes under the Act of 1919. Perhaps I should not say that, because a good business man, certainly a good accountant, can handle a taxing statute much more easily than a lawyer can. There is no doubt a difficulty exists in connection with the matter, and we propose to get away from it in this way. We intend to have, either printed on the returns themselves that are sent out for next year, or attached to the returns, a list showing incomes of different amounts with the exact amounts of the taxes that ought to be paid on those incomes. Therefore, there will be no difficulty whatever for the taxpayer who wants to pay and who knows his income—and if he does not know his income, we cannot assist him in that regard—on looking at that list, to see just exactly what sum he ought to pay. It is true we shall not print on the returns copies of these Acts with their more or less complicated provisions, nor shall we go through the matter chapter and verse, showing how the computation is made up; but we shall see to it that the computation is right and that the list can be safely and easily followed.

I fully appreciate the suggestion made by the hon. member for Renfrew South (Mr. Pedlow). He is perfectly correct. Bills have been delayed and bills have gone out at different times. The reason for that is this: Under the former statute the department had absolutely no right to recall an assessment that had been made; an assessment once made stood. That meant that every man who was honest and zealous in his duties made no assessment until he had absolutely satisfied himself that he had checked up every single item that ought to be checked up in connection with a return that was made, and therefore the bill would go out only when that information was ob-