

The Sabbath Observance Bill is the hardest nut that the House has had to crack this session. It is now stated that there is a probability that a clause will be inserted providing that the Act shall not go into force in any province until it has been ratified by the provincial legislature. That strikes us as a very satisfactory solution of a most difficult problem.

The people of Quebec regard the measure as a gross interference with their rights, and the probability is that if an attempt were made to enforce it there would be almost a semi-revolution in that province; certainly a good deal of dangerous ill-feeling would be engendered.

And later in the article:

Ontario should not desire to arbitrarily force its opinions on Quebec. We in this province would resist to the last any attempt on the part of the people of Quebec to enforce the 'open Sunday' upon us. The 'majority rule' argument must give away before the supreme necessity for a united Canadian nation living and working together in harmony and brotherly love.

In closing, may I not make a direct appeal to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) himself? It may be said,—and I acknowledge it,—that I may have said things against the Prime Minister at times that did not please his best friend. But, as I have stated, we all have our different ways of understanding what is our public duty. I am not here to discuss that point to-night; but I am here to appeal to the best instincts of the Prime Minister. In spite of what may have passed between you and those who may think as I do, I appeal to you to remember that the eyes of the people of Canada are fixed upon you to-night.

It is in your hands to decide whether you will give to this Bill the stamp which will make it acceptable to the people of this country. You can do that or you can refuse to do it. But I say again, we are not at present in the same condition that we were on some other questions that have caused much difficulty in this country. We are not in the same circumstances that we were in the

Manitoba school case, or the Northwest school case, or the floor war, because in those days the government were obliged to adopt and follow one line of action. I think that the government were wrong then, but the people of Canada have judged that they were right. But the position today is not what it was then. Then you were forced as a government to adopt certain legislation or to follow one line of action. But that is not the case at present. You can adopt this legislation and give satisfaction at the same time to both Quebec and Ontario. I repeat to the Prime Minister that when it is a question of choosing between Quebec and Ontario, when it becomes necessary to trample either upon the feelings of Quebec or the feelings of Ontario, in such a case there must necessarily be a compromise, there must be give and take. On an occasion like this, when you can give to Ontario what it desires, and when you can refrain from imposing upon Quebec what she does not desire, I appeal to the best feelings of the Prime Minister, I appeal to the principles he has preached, to the conduct he has followed ever since he began his career, and I say, do not minimize the authority of the voice that is uttering these sentiments to you. If anything personal has passed between us, let us ignore it, let us trample upon personal feelings. But I repeat to you that my voice to-night is not the voice of a simple individual, it is the voice, not only of Quebec but it is the voice of Ontario, as spontaneously expressed in many of their newspaper organs, and it appeals to you that, while giving to Ontario what she wants, you do not impose upon Quebec what she does not want. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to the Committee of the Whole with instructions to insert the following clause:

18. This Act shall not come into force in any of the provinces of Canada until the legislature of such province has enacted that such Act shall apply to the said province.