

duced, they have issued a circular, to which the hon. member for Montreal (Mr. Curran) drew my attention yesterday, and a copy of which I received this morning. That circular contains the following resolution :

" Be it resolved, that we ask that Sir John Thompson's Bill to further amend the criminal law be amended by inserting the word 'statute' in place of 'law.' "

In addition to that, some eight or ten delegates, representing all the trade and labor organisations, waited upon the First Minister, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Marine and myself, the other day, and made the request that the simple change should be made in my Bill of inserting the word "statute" for "law." I think the section I have proposed will be an improvement, and gives them further protection even than that; but considering, as the hon. member for West Durham has said, that it meets the request put forward by these organisations, and, as far as I can see, meets all the practical difficulties, it would be well to rest content with that much for the present, at any rate, unless a practical case is put forward calling for a change.

Mr. CURRAN. Judging by the observations of the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), it would appear as if there will not be as much protection as formerly. What we must also take into consideration is the fact that these organisations are advised by legal gentlemen outside, whose views are very different to those expressed by hon. gentlemen here. I have often myself, when conversing with these people, found that points which appeared very clear to me, were taken exception to by them, under advice given them elsewhere. The hon. the Minister of Justice has met the request of these people on their own ground, and, perhaps, to some extent improved upon it. It is probably well to give them what they ask.

Mr. BLAKE. When I was called upon to legislate on this subject, I gave what I thought was right.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I have given, not only what I thought was right, but more than they asked, and do not propose to give any more.

Mr. WILSON (Elgin). I am to a certain extent satisfied with the clause introduced by the Minister of Justice, for I feel it is going in the direction of granting the relief which the labor organisations require; but I would call the attention of the Minister of Justice to the fact that in the report, Mr. Elliott, the president of that organisation, in referring to the clause introduced by me last Session, stated that clause was introduced so late and the clause was so crudely drawn that it would not meet the acceptance of the labor organisations. The Minister of Justice, however, has accepted the clause, as I introduced it last Session, which the president of the organisation said would not suit their purpose, and he ought to remove the crudity with which it is encumbered. I would further recommend him to have communication with Mr. Elliott, so that he may get the approval and endorsement of Mr. Elliott. If the clause was so crude and unsatisfactory when it emanated from my hands and appeared upon the Order paper in my name, I cannot understand how it could have improved so very much by emanating from the hands of the Minister of Justice. I suppose the organisations of trade and labor are very honest and sincere and candid, and I should judge the Minister would do well to reconsider the matter, and see whether the clause merits the approval of Mr. Elliott.

Mr. BLAKE. I read that correspondence, and I must say I formed the conclusion that the real opinion of Mr. Elliott was that it was not the clause that was crude, but the hon. member for Elgin.