

parties to act in the presence of, but also "in the absence of," the licensed practitioner, so that the dentist himself might altogether desert his practice, and under the cover of his license hand his patients over to a salaried assistant. It is also sought to obtain this right without any matriculation examination, and without exacting any of the obligations which for twenty years have been imposed upon our own registered students. In the interest of the work we have done in this Province for so long a time for the better education of students and a better service to the public, I consider this movement the most dangerous of the several obstructive measures with which we have had to contend. If a licentiate has knowingly instigated the evasion and breach of the present law, it would surely be curious justice in Quebec that would reward him by legalizing that which the courts had proved to be illegal. It is a most ingenious idea of jurisprudence, surely, that would make the crime of yesterday the prerogative of to-day; and if it could only be extended sufficiently in its application, by petition, it might even empty the penitentiaries. The legislation asked for on behalf of irresponsible assistants would be an immediate damage to the French and English students of Quebec, who are now complying with the law, as well as to those of us who do not believe in the principle of handing over our patients to assistants who are unable or unwilling to submit to the requirements of the Provincial Board. It would open the way for fresh infractions. The men who stretched the interpretation of one law to its breach would not hesitate to do it again. It would place the public at the mercy of a class upon whom the governing body of the profession have no check, and would exempt them from the penalties to which we, as established licentiates, are subject for certain unprofessional conduct. It would leave to the employer of these salaried assistants, even if he were a quack or one who resorts to quack methods, the prerogative of judging qualifications for practice which the Legislature has, since 1868, confided exclusively to the elective Provincial Board.

It has been enacted for over twenty-five years by the Legislature that no one shall practise dentistry in Quebec in the way the petition implies unless he has passed the required examinations; and it is now further compulsory that all applicants must attend the Dental College. I fail to see why these conditions should be imposed upon our own indentured students who have passed the severe matriculations and completed the course, and withdrawn from those who are unwilling or unable to do so. In this question, even the possession of a foreign diploma is well-known to be no proof of a proper qualification. That is a well-established fact in Quebec. If any dentist finds that his practice is too extensive, or that he cannot himself do certain work, he may hire assistants to do it, or if he prefers trading horses to practising dentistry,