

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. They are not charitable to us.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. They have never been uncharitable to my hon. friends. They have never reflected on their motives in any respect, and I do not think any reflections should be cast on the motives of these gentlemen of the alliance. But if my right hon. friend suggests that I or he, as a member of this House, is absolved from all responsibility with regard to this legislation because those who are sincerely advocating it think it undesirable that the clause should go beyond a certain limit, with all due respect to them I am not prepared to accept their views in that respect. If he introduces a clause which is based on a principle that ought to lead us to go further, I shall not sit dumb simply because some of those who are promoting a better observance of the Lord's day think it need not go further. And when I put, in a respectful and courteous manner, a question to my hon. friend the Minister of Justice regarding the application of the principle which he has himself laid down, I consider that I am entitled to an answer.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This Bill has been approved, in principle at least, by every body in this House. My hon. friend has expressed his approval of Sunday legislation and my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has said that he was in favour of the principle of Sunday observance. The only criticism I have heard on this measure is that it puts too many restrictions on the liberties of the people.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. And not enough on crime.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend ought to be consistent. This is not legislation on crime. Crime must be legislated against, not only on Sunday but on every day of the week. It would be preposterous to legislate for the prevention of crime on any particular day. If my hon. friend is satisfied that there is crime committed on Sunday, which requires to be specially legislated against, let him move to amend the criminal code. His interruption is simply a flippant way of dealing with the subject. The only criticism on this legislation is that it goes too far, that it is too harsh, and puts too many restrictions upon the people. Here is a restriction which it puts upon those who use guns on Sunday, and that restriction is that they should not be allowed to shoot at a target, but we are told that neither should they be allowed to shoot at anything else. My hon. friend says this is not a private Bill and certainly it is not, but it is a Bill which applies to all Christian denominations, and there is no use saying that we are shirking responsibility when we insert a clause

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

which satisfies those who are more particularly promoting this Bill and which, we believe, will meet the views of the Christian denominations generally.

Mr. GALLIHER. I think I should say a word on this section because I believe that the information came to the committee who sat on this Bill from the town of Revelstoke in my constituency. I was written to personally, before this Bill was introduced, with regard to the practice of shooting on Sunday on the ground that it interrupted church services. I believe that in drafting this section the object was simply to prevent the practice of target shooting. In reading over the section, it struck me that not only would it prevent shooting at inanimate objects but also at objects of any kind. It would prevent, for instance, the shooting of a deer or a buck. I can see, however, the force of the objection which the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Beaulieu) has taken, and that is that while a target or a mark might be an inanimate object, and I fancy that is what my hon. friend referred to. What struck me would meet exactly what everybody seems to be agreed upon, except those who go so far as to say we should not shoot game at all on Sunday, would be to adopt the first proposition of my hon. friend the Minister of Justice, and insert the following section:

It shall not be lawful for any person on the Lord's day to shoot at any target, mark or any other like object, or use any gun, rifle or other engine for that purpose; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to the hunting of game.

That would give all the privilege of hunting, but would prevent shooting at a mark or target, whether animate or inanimate. As to hunting, I think most of the provinces have their own laws with regard to that. We have.

Mr. BOURASSA. I do not think that the suggestion of my hon. friend from Kootenay (Mr. Galliher) would make this clause absolutely good. If it reads 'any target, mark or other like object,' it would leave anybody the right to shoot at a wall, the side of a house, or anything of that kind. Of course, we have been told by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that the moment the gentlemen who claimed this legislation are satisfied, we must be satisfied also—the people of Canada and the representatives of the people of Canada have nothing to say. But, for my part, not having had the advantage of receiving the direct and all-illuminating light of these outside intelligences that have prepared this legislation, I am still forced to use, to a certain extent my own judgment. It seems to me that shooting at game on Sunday is no more in accordance with the worship which characterizes the Sabbath than is shooting at a mark. If game shooting be allowed at all,