

to me that, under this amendment, once a man has started to drive while in that condition, he is guilty of this offence, and, knowing that, he will try to carry on until he gets home, whereas what he should do when he finds he cannot handle the car is to get to the side of the road and sleep it off.

Mr. ILSLEY: The hon. gentleman is taking the case of an intelligent man who finds himself getting a little too drunk to drive. All he has to do is to pull over to the side of the road and get out of the driver's seat.

Mr. GRAYDON: How intelligent is he when he is too drunk to drive?

Mr. ILSLEY: If he is intelligent enough to realize it, he is pretty intelligent.

Mr. FRASER: I wonder why the minister does not include the driver of a motor boat in this section. I say that because at many summer resorts people get into motor boats and ride around in circles near people in canoes, and cause a great deal of trouble. There should be a stiff penalty for anything of that kind.

Mr. ILSLEY: I believe the suggestion of the hon. gentleman is worth looking into. I have had no representations about drunken drivers of motor boats; I did not know there were any.

Mr. FRASER: That has happened at many places throughout the country, and I do not think there is any law to protect those in other boats. If these drunken drivers get into the ship channel then the Minister of Transport has a law for them, but if they get into the bay or out of the channel there is nothing to protect other people.

Mr. LESAGE: Suppose this motor boat driver realizes he is drunk; what should he do? He cannot park on the side of the road. Should he jump in the lake?

Mr. CHURCH: Notwithstanding the heavy loss of life, we have yet to provide a section dealing adequately with this offence. As the chief analyst for the Ontario government has said, eighty per cent of the accidents on our highways are caused by people who are not fit to drive their cars because of the intoxicants they have taken. It is all very well to talk about those who are in charge of a car. Some people sleep in their cars. Recently in my own city they have moved all the cars off the downtown streets and put them on the waterfront. Others sleep in trailers, which they are trying to move now to make room for the sick children's hospital. This section has not been strengthened at all. The pro-

posed amendment will cause far more confusion than there has been under the existing law. The appalling fatal accidents and injuries from highway motor traffic are mounting steadily night and day. Every highway in Canada is coloured red with the slaughter. The loss in men, women and children, as well as the economic loss, is deplorable.

Several months ago, when I proposed an amendment somewhat similar to this one the minister showed a great deal of sympathy. Many of these accidents are caused by failure to exercise care and judgment, on the part of those who drive these deadly, menacing machines. Nothing has contributed so much as the motor car to the education and enjoyment of the public. But, like every other great invention, and as in connection with medicine, science, physics and chemistry, use is one thing and abuse is another. Because of the abuse of the motor car in Canada today, we read in our newspapers every day about these casualties. On Dominion day, Tuesday of this week, there were seventy-five casualties, some of which were from drowning, but the great majority from the use of motor cars.

I hope that something may be done under this provision to remove this public scandal. Every highway is coloured red with slaughter, and nothing has been done, so far as I can see in this section, to cure the disease. The total list of those killed and injured on the highways of England, the United States and Canada during the six years of the war was almost equal to the number of casualties of those killed and injured in the war.

I have referred to this matter on many occasions, and I shall not occupy more of the time of the committee this evening. I do not say anything by way of criticism of the minister or of his deputy, because the minister has indeed a most able deputy at the present time, a man who has the advantage of having come from Toronto. The deputy minister of justice, Mr. Varcoe, K.C., C.M.G., was educated at Harbord collegiate, which has produced some great men, including Sir Edward Beatty, Beverley Baxter, Garfield Weston and others.

I call to the minister's attention the recommendations of chief justices, judges and magistrates and the law courts, the bar association, the chief constables' association and others for the cure of this disease. I doubt very much that the changing of a few words here and there will obtain the object the minister has in mind, because anyone can say now, "I did not intend to drive the car, no matter where I was sitting", and he will get the benefit of the doubt.