

HON. MR. POWER—I do not think we should ask the Attorney-General of Manitoba anything about it.

HON. MR. ROSS—I do not see why parents should be consulted in this matter. When they did not succeed in bringing up their boy in such a way as to keep him with them, and the boy is sent to the reformatory, I do not see why they should be afterwards consulted as to the best way to reform him. The parents have shown their incapacity to bring up their child and train him, when he has to be sent to the reformatory.

HON. MR. MASSON—Suppose a young man nineteen years old, has been in the reformatory three years, and the father who had neglected his education; is dead; the remaining parent may be an honest person, but the boy had stolen or committed some offence for which he was sent to the reformatory as a consequence of the bad education he had received, are his remaining relations, who may be honest and honorable people, not to be consulted as to the disposal of the boy? By the hon. gentleman's proposition, he has yielded to the state the responsibility of bringing up the boy, and he allows the Attorney-General to hand over that responsibility to some farmer, who, perhaps, may have no religion himself at all, to educate that child as he pleases. I think the proposal, with all due respect, to the Government of Manitoba, is—I will not say it—the word is too severe. It is an immoral proposition, and if these arguments are submitted to the Government of Manitoba, they will themselves understand that the position they are taking is unjustifiable.

HON. MR. POWER—There is another provision, which, I think from a hasty reading of that clause, needs some amendment. As I read the clause it allows the boy to be bound out for a term extending beyond the period for which he was sentenced.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—With his own consent.

HON. MR. POWER—Still, the boy in the first instance is not over sixteen when sentenced, and if such a boy is asked to consent to be bound out, in order to get away from the restrictions of the reformatory, he would be willing to consent. 1

think that the hon. Minister should consult his colleagues on this subject, but I fail to see any particular object to be gained by consulting the Attorney-General of Manitoba.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I did not think it went beyond the term for which the boy was sentenced. No child can be apprenticed without the consent of his parents or guardians when he is not in a reformatory; but here the parents, when the boy is taken away from them, for perhaps a trivial offence, are actually deprived of any control over him, and he may be apprenticed for the full term of his minority.

The clause was allowed to stand.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I propose to ask the House to pass a clause which will prevent clauses in respect to the Manitoba Reformatory from coming into force until the Government is satisfied that the concurrent legislation which is being made in Manitoba is satisfactory. I submit a clause to that effect:

"40. The provisions of this Act in respect to the Manitoba Reformatory for boys shall not come into force until the same shall have been proclaimed by the Governor in Council."

The clause was agreed to.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—There is another clause which I desire to add to the Bill. There has been some doubt whether a commissioner for taking affidavits can receive declarations under this statute. I propose to add a clause as follows, which will make it clear who may administer such official declarations:—

"41. Section three of Chapter one hundred and forty-one of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intitled: 'An Act respecting Extra-Judicial Oaths,' is repealed, and the following section is substituted therefor:—

"Any Judge, Justice of the Peace, Police or Stipendiary Magistrate, Recorder, Commissioner authorized to take affidavits to be used either in Provincial or Dominion Courts, or any other functionary authorized by law to administer an oath in any matter, may receive the solemn declaration of any person voluntarily making the same before him, in the form in the Schedule to this Act, in attestation of the execution of any writing, deed or instrument, or of the truth of any allegation of fact, or of any account rendered in writing."

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—Are those who are now taking declarations under commission included?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Yes, everyone who is now authorized to administer an oath.

The clause was agreed to.