

like to see. I suppose it is necessary that some such Bill as this should be passed; but I do not like to go the length of saying that a subject shall be deprived of the right of trial by jury.

Hon. Mr. RYAN—It appears to be conceded on all sides that there is some necessity for this Bill. A measure somewhat in the same direction was enacted last Session with regard to the carrying of arms, to put a stop to that practice, but it has proved an utter failure, because it did not give the right of searching the person. It has been inoperative. The difficulties to which reference has been made do not arise from people being out of employment. I believe the evil is not temporary, but is growing, and will increase, and I should be very sorry to pass an inoperative Bill again and share the responsibility of allowing such a state of things to exist, as I think will arise unless strong measures are resorted to. This Bill is temporary. Parliament will take it under its cognizance next Session, and can say whether it has been useful or not. With reference to what the hon. Secretary of State has said respecting the apprehensions of the people being excited about the doing away of trial by jury in some cases, I believe the well-thinking and good citizens of every city where lawlessness prevails will be only too happy and grateful to the Ministry for passing this Act, and it is with that view I have urged the amendment I proposed, and without which I think the Bill would fall to the ground utterly and entirely useless.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—It seems to me the hon. member from Lambton overlooks a very important fact in connection with this Bill. He speaks of it as a bill to go into operation after it receives the Governor-General's consent. That is not the case; but, on the contrary, a condition of things must arise which will induce the Government to enforce it, and they will be exceedingly slow to take such a step in any district without the gravest and most imperative necessity exists for its application. When a community gets into that condition of affairs which will justify a Government in applying such a law as this, the better class of people will be satisfied to deliver up their personal

*Hon. Mr. Brown.*

liberties for a while, or to allow their personal liberties to be interfered with for a while in order to secure the greater end of public safety and peace. Therefore, I cannot see any necessity for this buncombe about popular rights and trying this kind of legislation in a new country. We all admit those general principles. They do not require any assertion here. We all admit that anyone doing anything without provoking a breach of the peace should be allowed to do it. With regard to processions I do not believe they are the wisest thing in which people could occupy their time. I would be very glad to see all processions done away with, and especially party processions. I think they are exceedingly out of place, founded as they are on feuds or differences which do not belong to this country at all. No matter what class they belong to, these things are very improper in a country like ours; but while they are legal, and while people have the legal right to walk in processions, parties who have chosen to exercise that right should be protected at any cost. We all agree in that. Not one of us would disapprove of those general principles which the gentleman is so solicitous about; but we are talking about a different matter. I would not consider it an unreasonable thing to have a law like this, at any time, throwing the responsibility on the Government of applying it when circumstances might arise. I can fancy many instances where it would be desirable to have such a law on the Statute Books. I do not look on this as a measure to prevent contemplated events occurring next summer. I look upon it more in regard to its effect upon the community itself. Take the City of Montreal, where the contending factions will be prevented from carrying arms. So far from interfering with the friends of the hon. Senator from Lambton, or the hon. Senator from Hamilton, if they wish to go to Montreal and exhibit their colors, I think this measure will be rather to their advantage; but I hope nothing of the kind will take place. I do not see how any one can have any objection to the application which is intended by the amendment. I think it would be very wise if circumstances justified it, that there should be some restriction to the right to carry fire-arms in this country.