

he would not think it wrong that they should cook his dinner or make his bed or perform any of the other functions necessary to civilized life. The same argument would apply to the newspapers to which the hon. gentleman has alluded. Logically and strictly it may perhaps be as much a breach of Sunday to work after 9 o'clock in the evening as before 12 o'clock in the morning; but to apply the same rule in both cases would not be reasonable. Even this Bill admits it to be necessary that a newspaper employé should work after 9 o'clock on Sunday evening if he is required to do so, and exempts him from any legal consequences for doing so; but at the same time it secures for him the enjoyment of the day as well as any other class of employés. But the great object of the Bill, so far as I am inclined to support it, lies in this, that there are a certain class of employés who require the protection of the law, because in no other way can they possibly obtain protection. It is an old saying that we must deal with corporations on a different principle from individuals, because corporations have neither a body to be kicked nor a soul to be saved; and while we give them great powers and privileges, it is necessary that there should be some limits to their powers and privileges. I allude especially to the case of railways. Now, the railways in this country enjoy many extraordinary powers and privileges. In fact, it is sometimes hard to say who governs this country, whether the gentlemen sitting on the right of the Speaker or a great railway corporation. But at all events, we are bound to protect the employés of those corporations by law, because they are at present unable to obtain protection in any other way. Now, I am satisfied from my own observations, that the railway companies impose upon their employés a great deal of Sunday labour that is not necessary, and that is the reason why I will vote against the motion that the committee rise. Where I live I constantly see trains passing on Sunday, which I know are not necessary, and the sending of which involves a large amount of labour from which the employés should be protected. I trust that this Bill may go to the committee, and that the clause in regard to railways may be adopted in some form or other, for any one who knows anything of the subject knows how difficult it is for any employés of the railway companies to obtain redress if they are called on to work. They are perfectly helpless; there is no way in which they can obtain redress unless from the strong hands of the law. It is all very fine to talk about religious liberty and all that sort of thing; but at the same time the object of our legislation is to give equal rights to all classes of the community, whether they are employés of private individuals or of great corporations; and I speak chiefly in the interest of the employés of great corporations who are not and will not be liable to those influences which control the actions of private individuals. Farmers are not allowed to send their employés into the fields on Sunday, though we can think of circumstances in which it is reasonable that they should do so; but railway corporations have a control over their men such as no private employer has, and, therefore, the law should step in and give these men that protection which they would not otherwise have. I shall vote against the motion that the committee rise, because

I think, with regard to a measure of this kind, some step ought to be taken to prevent what is an abuse on the part of railway corporations, who compel their men, under circumstances, which would not be tolerated in the case of any private individual, to work on Sundays.

Mr. CHARLTON. I wish to say a few words, Mr. Chairman, before you put that motion. The hon. member for South Norfolk, in moving that the committee do now rise, did not perhaps realize that he proposed ignominiously to kick out of this High Court of Parliament a measure which interests a large portion of very respectable class of the people, and that in making this motion he seeks to cast contempt and reproach upon a class of people whom, upon consideration, he might be disposed to treat with more courtesy. The hon. gentleman has a very great regard to-night for provincial rights. I quite sympathize with him in that sentiment, and I certainly would desire to refrain from advancing or attempting to advance any legislation in this House which would be an infringement on the rights of any person in this Dominion; and the Bill now before the committee is a Bill from which, as I have said already, every feature was eliminated that pertained in any sense to the jurisdiction of Provincial Legislatures, with the single exception of the Sunday newspaper; and I will explain briefly in a moment why that feature was maintained. I presume the hon. gentleman will not venture to assert in this House that Provincial Legislatures have jurisdiction over the canals belonging to this Dominion or our railway traffic, or that this House, in making provision with reference to the management of canals which are Dominion property or with reference to the management of railways and the traffic upon them, which are of a national character, is in any way infringing upon provincial rights. The hon. gentleman would hardly be guilty of so great an absurdity as to make such an assertion. There is but one feature of this Bill that can be said to pertain to legislation within the purview of provincial legislatures, and that is the feature with regard to Sunday newspapers. We have been informed by the Minister of Justice that this Parliament has jurisdiction in that respect, that it is perfectly competent for this House to deal with that question, and I may inform the hon. gentleman that the committee to which was referred this Bill, in considering the question as to the propriety of retaining the section with regard to Sunday newspapers, took this view of the case. First, they held that it was desirable that there should be a uniformity of law throughout the Dominion with regard to that matter, for the reason that the Government of this country has control of the copyright laws and the transmission of printed matter through the mails, and has control of the introduction of literature into this country through the customs. For these and other reasons not necessary to mention, they felt it was in the highest degree desirable that the law with regard to Sunday newspapers should be a uniform law, and I am happy to hear the declaration of the Minister of Justice that, so far as his sympathies and his own private views are concerned, he is opposed to the publication of Sunday newspapers; and I take this occasion of expressing my obligations to that hon. gentleman for fair treatment and courtesy in all cases where I have had