

thing specific at any rate, which this particular enactment proposes to declare unlawful. There is not, that I am able to see, by that declaration any implication that everything else in the range of imagination is on that day lawful. If it were so, however, the reason for making a special prohibition of this particular class of thing is I should think manifest. It is entirely in line with the provisions of section 5, which has already been approved by this committee at a previous sitting. It is a declaration that something in the nature of a contest, something by reason of which men will probably be gathered together as they would gather to see some struggle or contest for a prize or reward, should on that day be unlawful.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I may say that I cannot appreciate the reasoning of the Minister of Justice. We are not discussing the Act of Charles II but the provisions of this measure, and we are asking a very special question. We are asking why it is that the government conclude that it is not desirable for men to meet together on Sunday to shoot at a target and that it is eminently desirable for them to meet together to shoot at pigeons.

Mr. AYLESWORTH. No one has said it is except my hon. friend.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I say that is the meaning of that section.

Mr. AYLESWORTH. If he says that what he suggests is desirable I suggest that he should move an amendment.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. minister can suggest as much as he likes. I am asking him as a minister of the Crown, what the principle is and I receive in answer nothing but a very flippant suggestion instead of the answer which you might expect from a gentleman holding the position of Minister of Justice.

Mr. AYLESWORTH. And we in promoting this legislation receive nothing but obstruction from the hon. gentleman.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am not obstructing the legislation, I am asking the government why they do not make it more comprehensive, if the principle is good; and in answer I receive a suggestion that I had better move some amendment. I am asking for the principle on which this legislation is based. If it is desirable—and I am prepared to say it is—to prevent the gathering together of people and the causing in this way of disturbance on Sunday, I fail to see why this clause should be limited in the way it is. I received no information whatever from my hon. friend the Minister of Justice when I made a respectful suggestion to him. The reply he gave was that I had better move an amendment. That

is a new principle in dealing with legislation brought down by the government, and one I never heard advanced before in this House.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The minister did give a reason and offered to put it in the Bill and that was to prevent noise that would interrupt church services. Having laid that principle down, how can he say that shooting at a target may disturb church worship and that shooting at live pigeons will not? I say that the principle he laid down ought to apply to everything of that character. The position he takes is inconsequential, and the House is entitled to an explanation.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This is not the first time we have heard of a man being more Catholic than the Pope, and we now hear a number of men who are greater sabbatarians than the Lord's Day Alliance. The object is to prevent the shooting at targets because that may be an interference with divine worship. Quite true there may be other shooting besides shooting at targets which may also disturb worshippers; but those who have this Bill in charge have not seen fit to apply it to these other kinds of shooting. And therefore those who oppose the Bill ought to be satisfied that the prohibition does not go further than it does. But it is said by some that this Bill, which others think too comprehensive, ought to be made more comprehensive. My answer is that if those who have more particularly taken up the cause of the proper observance of the Lord's day are satisfied with this restriction, why should we extend it?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Can the right hon. gentleman give an instance in Canada where target shooting has been indulged in on the Sabbath day?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes, there is target shooting at Kamloops in the vicinity of a church.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My hon. friend treats this measure as if it were a private Bill promoted by some one outside the House. I deprecate absolutely every criticism made on the members of the Lord's Day Alliance who are promoting this measure. They are entitled to our utmost respect for the good work they are doing, and I am heartily in sympathy with them in their object, although I may not always agree with them in their views in regard to carrying it out. They are endeavouring to carry on a commendable work, namely, to promote Sabbath observance in this country, and I venture to think that the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Lavergne) have been somewhat uncharitable towards those gentlemen.