

“ the City of Montreal will come to create “ disorder in our city.” Suppose the people of the city were disarmed, what could happen? On the morning of a certain day perhaps five thousand people would come from one side, and five thousand from another, well armed, and in what position would be the people of the city be under such circumstances? Would it be possible to disarm them and apply the law? In his opinion there would be the greatest danger. It was a matter of regret that occurrences which were known to everybody were laid to the charge of the population of Montreal. It was well known a poor man was shot under certain circumstances, and it was said this man was a victim of the Catholics, yet the murderer could not be found.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL hoped the hon. gentleman would not pursue the subject further.

Hon. Mr. TRUDEL contended that Montreal would be in a position to settle all those difficulties provided no outsiders interfered, and he saw nothing in the Bill directly to prevent them.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN said the suggestion thrown out by the hon. Senator from Alma in connection with that of the hon. gentleman from Victoria, was well worthy of attention. The evidence on which a party could be convicted was of such a simple character that no difficulty could occur. A person apprehended or brought before a justice would not be charged with rioting or attacking another person, but simply with having been found with arms on his person; therefore no strong party feeling was likely to enter into such a case. It was unfortunate that the practice of carrying firearms was becoming more prevalent in Canada, and deplorable circumstances were resulting from it. Firm measures should be taken to put a stop to it. If parties found with arms in their possession or with more than the lawful quantity in their house could appeal to a jury the very object of this Bill would be defeated. He hoped the Government would consent to the amendment.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH concurred in this view; prompt conviction was necessary in order to deter people from those

*Hon. Mr. Trudel*

crimes. If delay occurred witnesses would be got out of the way. He did not think a jury would be as impartial in such matters as the judiciary.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—There is one other consideration we ought to keep in view. This is the first time anything of this kind has been passed in our country, and it is probably done under a momentary irritation, which we have seen quite equalled on many occasions before. We were looking forward to one particular day of the year and told there was to be a great outrage, and great excitement about it, but when the day came it passed away.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL — Colonel Prince's Act was against carrying arms in the same way, but there was no searching in houses.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—There must have been some searching, because I went to the rooms of the Chief of Police, and he had a perfect armory there.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I think we ought not to put on the statute book so severe a measure at the first sound of danger. A great deal of that irritation arises from the depression, and the large number of people that are out of employment. Probably with the opening of navigation and better employment, it will die away. As to five thousand persons going into the city, I do not believe any such number can go there. I think the municipalities ought to take very prompt steps to quell all such disturbances, and there would then be no need of a Bill such as this. The municipalities should all understand quite clearly it is their duty to prevent any man or number of men being interfered with in the exercise of their undoubted rights. Whether it be marching in procession or anything else—the right of the citizen should be maintained no matter at what cost, and so long as they do not commit breaches of the peace, they are entitled to the full protection of the State. I think that principle should be applied to all parties. There is no force in the argument that outsiders have no right to go there because a certain class of people do not like it. We can turn away our eyes from the things we do not