

*Criminal Code—Mr. Church*

broken lives and shattered homes resulting from this holocaust are terrible to contemplate. The abominable and domineering indifference of some drivers of motor cars to the convenience of others is hard to explain. There are three features which appear to be predominant in the conduct of motor traffic, namely, a domineering indifference to the convenience of others, excessive speed and congestion. Ever since man learned to mount and direct a machine more powerful than himself he has asserted his superiority of force over his neighbours. "Make way or take the consequences" has been his instinctive cry, and he has gone on his way largely indifferent to their admiration, tolerance or resentment. Nearly every motor driver, if he be honest with himself, must agree that when he drives he is imbued with that same primitive instinct to assert his superiority to demand the right of way and freedom to progress as rapidly as he thinks necessary. One of independent mind cannot but think that the condition of motor traffic on our highways is just as discreditable to Canada as was the effect of prohibition in the United States, where the law was just laughed at. We must examine the problem with an open mind to get the truth, no matter how distasteful it may be. Thou shalt do no murder; Thou shalt not kill; that is the law of God. Our duty to our neighbour is also involved, as well as selfishness, one of the worst defects of human nature. Pope says, "Worth makes the man." Human life should be sacred on the highways; yet many men of real worth, by selfishness and carelessness violate the laws of God and man and send many men, women and children to their graves. The paths of glory lead but to the grave in this daily slaughter.

There is no invention that has contributed more to the education, pleasure and enjoyment of the people than the motor car, but its use is one thing, its abuse another. Like other inventions of science, medicine, the arts and discoveries in physics, pathology, chemistry, biochemistry, preventive medicine and trade and commerce, the right use of inventions has been a boon and a blessing to humanity, but the motor car has also been a curse, like the use of gas in war. It involves awful misery and suffering, sorrow and pain, equal only to that of plague, pestilence and famine, battle, murder and sudden death. The abuse of the motor car is one of the unpardonable sins of this age and is a real menace to organized society in a so-called Christian country. Widows and orphans are crying out to us in the House of Commons in their agony for relief. Are

[Mr. Church.]

we going to do our duty? In every constituency represented in this house poor people are being legally murdered. I may say that men, women and children have been killed, and the dependents of many of those men and women have not been provided for. I myself have seen some of them suffering. For this reason I think women should be on the jury; they should comprise a third of it. They have equal rights; they are voters; they can be members of the senate or of the House of Commons. They cannot sit on the bench, but probably if they were permitted to sit on the bench a great many of these reckless drivers would not get off as easily as they do. I can say that at least fifty per cent of women are voters, and they should be permitted to sit on juries so that cases might be properly considered and digested. I admit that pedestrians on the highways are careless and reckless; of course they are. The causes of accidents would run about fifty per cent for drivers and fifty per cent for pedestrians.

This bill contains no criticism of the driver of the motor car, nor of the motor car owner, ninety-five per cent of whom are law-abiding at heart. I limit it to five per cent of those drivers. Some of the jurors are so soft when they consider the cases of drivers that they are almost at the point where they present a gold watch and an illuminated address to the accused. All the world, with the exception of Canada, is considering this matter. President Roosevelt has appointed a committee under secretaries Wallace and Moore to make a study of the matter, and Great Britain has done likewise. It is making a study of the problem, especially the psychological aspect. Psychological principles may be discovered there which will have a worldwide application. Last year on the roads of Great Britain 6,521 men, women and children were killed by violence, and in addition 219,000 were hurt or maimed for life. This number, in one year, is 500 less than Canada's total casualties in her part in the great war. In Canada in 1934, 1,106 were killed and last year 1,316 were killed. In the Netherlands, a small country, 744 were killed and 14,900 injured. In the United States 36,000 were killed, hurled to death and 954,000 were injured.

The public puts up with this slaughter, this economic waste of man power, wages and disasters, some of which plunge whole nations into mourning and sorrow. Hon. members will recall the Moose River tragedy. The men who were trapped in the mine suffered horror and tribulation. Look at the amount of space