

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I hope my hon. friend is not going to argue that the pagan religion is the only effective one for the Indians.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): While I agree that the minister will administer the act fairly, what about those who have charge of the administration of it, those who are under him, those who are out there and who may be subject to the ultra moral influences of some religious organization? Frankly I have no objection to healthy young men and women playing innocent, good games on the Sabbath, if you like, after they have gone to church, if they are churchgoers; but I cannot for the life of me agree to a policy of restricting youth especially either to long walks or to complete silence within their homes. We might as well go back to Scotland in some of the worst days in its history if we are going to adopt a policy of that kind. I do not think it should be applied to the Indians especially when we who are so particularly moral in respect to observance of the Sabbath, as the minister has indicated, sometimes make a good deal of money and very often have a very hectic and unpleasant time playing golf on Sundays. I have known perfectly good Christian gentlemen, after church or sometimes without going to church, quite frequently to go out and put up a substantial bet on every hole they played. It is all right for them to do that, but not for an Indian to play a game of baseball. As long as the minister is personally supervising the interpretation of the act I believe it is safe to leave it in his hands, but I do not think it is safe to leave it in the act, because we are quite certain the minister will not personally administer the act; it will be left in the hands of a local agent or supervisor.

Section agreed to.

Sections 10 to 14 inclusive agreed to.

On section 15—certificate of analyst to be accepted as *prima facie* evidence.

Mr. COOTE: Would the minister kindly advise the committee just what is the need of clauses 14 and 15? Have there been recent occurrences which make this necessary?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): This is really to bring our act into conformity with the provincial act. Clause 15 is drafted from the Alberta act so as to bring this act into conformity with the provincial legislation. I am told that it is working out very satisfactorily. I confess it looks a little drastic to accept a certificate as to the contents of a bottle of liquor, for example, without bringing a man

into court, but I understand this has been done for the purpose of better enforcement of the law and that no serious complaint has arisen with respect to it. Liquor is one of the things with which we have a great deal of trouble on an Indian reserve and we want to bring the law into conformity at least with the law of the province.

Item agreed to.

On section 16—Indian wasting his time in a pool room.

Mr. COOTE: Would the minister give an explanation of this?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): If my hon. friend has visited Macleod he has got a full explanation. One of the difficulties we have in keeping the Indians farming in the communities where we are making some progress with them, is that they waste so much time loitering around the pool rooms in the towns, and if there is an agricultural fair within a hundred miles we have a most difficult time in keeping them at work on the reserve. It is true we have been guilty to some extent in allowing them to become part of the show at those agricultural fairs, and possibly we should not blame them too much for going, but if we have not some control—perhaps my hon. friend thinks this is drastic—we shall not be able to keep the young men particularly, and the old men as well, from engaging in games of chance within a pool room.

Miss MACPHAIL: I am convinced now that we are producing too much farm produce in any case, so why get so fussy about keeping the Indians at work? When we have to regulate how many hours they shall stay in a pool room, who is going to have the say as to the right number of hours? I suppose the white man's amount will be the correct number of hours, and then the Indians must go back to the farm. I think a section like that is ridiculous. It would be better if they never worked at all than to force them to do it. This will open the way for persecution. The same thing is true about the games; they are not to do this or that. Anybody who has ever taught children knows that the more not-to-do's you have, the worse it is for the children. I think these two clauses are unsound.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): All I can say is that I wish my hon. friend had the job of looking after the Indians. If she had, she would find that a lot of things that appear to be unsound are absolutely sound. I know at times the complaint is made that the Indians are treated too drastically, but one