

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I must admit I am not very well posted on medicine. I never used much of it, and hope I never shall. But it seems to me the hon. leader of the House is extreme; he looks on all these drugs as being poisonous. Some people think that beef, pork or mutton are not good for the system. I know that in prescribing, doctors use a great deal of these proprietary medicines put up by responsible firms, and I am informed that the safest of these medicines are put in tablets. Doctors say that they are all right and prescribe them. We should not interfere with orders that have been placed with manufacturers who have carried on business for years and, we should not bring this provision into force until the Act is proclaimed. If a dealer has ordered a stock of patent medicine and the manufacturer is preparing it, under this clause the order would have to be cancelled. I do not think it is fair.

Hon. Mr. KERR—It seems to me that we are here to deal with this Bill deliberately and in a way to make it a workable law, and at the same time to do justice to all the different interests, or we are here simply to record our approval of Bills without giving them any consideration at all. The fact that the hon. minister, consulting some particular interest, has arrived at an understanding about the particular phraseology of a clause, whilst I might have every respect for his opinion, I think that is hardly a reason why we should unintelligently go into a matter involving large interests, which is a reform of a sweeping character brought down at the last minute of the session, when there is no opportunity to obtain expert advice except that which is in the hands of those promoting the Bill. In view of the whole situation with reference to this matter, the law which has been in force all our lives, giving freedom in dealing with these matters, has been accompanied by an education on the part of the people, and they are generally careful what they do take and take only that which is well recommended—and nearly all these medicines are recommended by some medical men.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Never.

Hon. Mr. KERR—Under the circumstances, I think we can easily afford to let this Bill stand over for one session.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—It would be a good thing.

Hon. Mr. KERR—And deal with it intelligently. If the sale of patent medicines is a crying evil, and if the use of noxious drugs is something that should never have been allowed, then some person has been responsible for not introducing the legislation long ago; if, on the other hand, a little common sense is to be used in making the provisions proposed here protecting the public interest and at the same time not injuring those who have established rights, and if those poisons are properly introduced into the best medicines by medical men—

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, no. That is not so. I have given a study to this question for half a century.

Hon. Mr. KERR—Those who give a great deal of study and attention to a subject on one line, sometimes get into a perverted state of mind over it, not that the hon. gentleman's mind is perverted, but I know he has peculiar ideas on this as well as on some other matters, dietary questions as well as medicinal matters. Who is there to say how this thing ought to be dealt with at large? How many of us know absolutely that there is a large number of proprietary medicines doing such harm? How many of us know how far we should go to protect vested interests in this matter? How far should we go in the way of disturbing trade and interfering with merchants and manufacturers who have stocks of goods on hand, who have invested their money, and who not only invested their money, but made a life study of the preparation of proprietary medicines? All these things go to show we should hasten slowly, and, in order that this matter may be fairly tested, I move that the committee rise.

Hon. Mr. DERBYSHIRE—This is a question in which I am vitally interested. The House of Commons passed this Bill with the minister fully charged with the enact-