

poses three or four simple things. It proposes, in the first place—and perhaps some of my hon. friends will be shocked at a proposal so puritanical and absurd—it proposes to put an end to the publication of Sunday newspapers in this Dominion. The provision is this :

Whoever shall, on the Lord's Day, either as proprietor, publisher, or manager, engage in the printing, publication or delivery of a newspaper, journal or periodical, and whoever shall, on the Lord's Day, engage in the sale, distribution or circulation of any newspaper, journal or periodical, shall be deemed to be guilty of an indictable offence.

Now, I pointed out a short time ago that Sunday newspapers are not published in Great Britain, they are not published in Switzerland, they are not published in Holland. An effort has been made, and the effort will probably prove successful, to secure a law in Hungary by which their publication will be prohibited there. One of the American journalists, Mr. Bennett, of the New York 'Herald' I believe, spent a great sum in finding out that the British people would not tolerate a Sunday newspaper. The Sunday newspaper is an institution of modern date. I can well remember when the first Sunday newspaper was published in the United States. There are nearly 700 daily newspapers published on Sunday in the United States at present. One of the greatest American editors, Horace Greeley, denounced the Sunday newspaper as a social demon ; and so it is. Its influence upon the religious and moral life of the United States is most disastrous. It tends to sap every good influence that exists in the country ; it banishes the Bible, it banishes religious reading matter ; it banishes all solid literature from the family. It begets a lower tone of sentiment. Triviality, superficiality, and immorality are the characteristics of the Sunday newspaper. A man who reads the Sunday newspaper is a superficial and trivial being, to the limit of the Sunday paper's influence upon him. The Sunday newspaper is the sworn enemy of the sabbath, the avowed enemy of the sabbath. It makes no concealment of its desire to break down the Bible. It defies and opposes the sabbath at every step of its career. A newspaper in a city may not have the voluntary choice whether it will issue a Sunday edition or not. If a newspaper is issued on Sunday, another newspaper is compelled to follow suit or fall behind in the race of competition, and upon hundreds of publishers the necessity of publishing a Sunday edition is forced by the fact that other newspapers publish Sunday editions. Under the old American sabbath which prevailed at the time of the Centennial Exhibition, that Exposition was not open on the Lord's Day ; at the time of the Paris Exhibition the exhibits of the United States were not open, nor were they at the Vienna Exhibi-

tion ; but we notice the influence of the Sunday newspaper in the intervening years by the fierce indignation displayed against the principle of Sunday closing at the Chicago Exhibition. We notice that every Sunday newspaper in the United States derided and belittled that sentiment of the thirty or forty millions of people who petitioned against the opening of the Exhibition on the Lord's Day, and we know the influence of the Sunday newspaper in the United States has been most disastrous, most debasing, most demoralizing, and its existence in that country is a great evil. The Sunday newspaper is the anti-christ of America ; itself a violation of divine law, it is the enemy of all divine law ; and unless it is put down the Christian religion will be put down ; within its theatre of operations it is a question between Christian institutions and this engine of the devil. We propose to prohibit the publication of Sunday newspapers. We propose to follow the example of the mother land, an example of many hundred years, which has carried her over all her difficulties.

I wish now to refer to one or two authorities, contained in the International Sunday Rest Congress papers, with respect to the publication of Sunday newspapers in the United States. My first authority is J. W. A. Stewart, D.D., and my second is His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons. Dr. Stewart says :

In the name of all that is sacred, let six days suffice to ding it continually in my ears that I belong to sense and to time ; let there be one day on which the "still small voice" may be heard, which whispers that I belong to eternity and to God. The spiritual man does not stop to ask whether the Sunday newspaper is a sin ; he instinctively says it is an impertinence. After he has given six days of thought and time to temporal things, it comes and does its best to drown that voice which tells him of his higher destiny ; it comes to pre-empt his thoughts and his hours, and to drive away prayer and the Bible and holy meditation. I say to the spiritual man it is an impertinence.

Cardinal Gibbons says :

A close observer cannot fail to note the dangerous inroads that have been made on the Lord's Day in our country within the last quarter of a century. If those encroachments are not checked in time, the day may come when the religious quiet, now happily reigning in our well-ordered cities, will be changed into noise and turbulence ; when the sound of the church bell will be drowned by the echo of the hammer and the dray ; when the Bible and the prayer-book will be supplanted by the newspaper and the magazine ; when the votaries of the theatre and the drinking saloons will outnumber worshippers, and salutary thoughts of God, of eternity, and of the soul will be checked by the cares of business and by the pleasure and dissipation of the world.

I repeat that we do not want this American institution in Canada. We do not want that condition of things which has dragged the United States down from the position of