

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—The prisoner in the penitentiary should have the right to call a minister to suit his conscience.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—They have no consciences.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—If these people have no consciences, wait until they have consciences and when that time arrives let us cultivate their consciences. I think this clause is an interference with the right of liberty of conscience. It depends upon the ministers of that community as to who shall be appointed, whether they shall be Baptist, Calvinist, Church of England or whether they shall be Catholics. Supposing there are a number of men in the penitentiary who belong to none of these churches, are you going to deprive them of religious succor and aid? That is what this clause means or would effect.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I move that clause 34 be struck out altogether, leaving the appointment to the minister, because I think it much better to have a permanent clergyman.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Then you would have no chaplain at all.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Yes, the minister has power to make the appointment.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Will my hon. friend from Halifax read his amendment again.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I withdraw my amendment.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I made the clause to read by striking out the words from 'Protestant chaplaincy' in the 12th line, cutting out the term of three months. However, I am quite ready to adopt any view the House may take.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Before the clause is dropped, I desire to ascertain first where the power comes in to appoint a chaplain?

Hon. Mr. POWER—That will be found under clause 27.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I venture to say that a chaplain would not come under that section. Chaplains are not necessary for the administration and police of a penitentiary.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is no use in criticising what has been done for the last thirty-five or forty years. These chaplains have been appointed all along and no one has ever questioned the right to do so.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Has my hon. friend the Act there?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The fact is undoubted.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—If this clause is struck out and you leave the schedules, there will be full power to appoint Protestant and Roman Catholic chaplains.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They have that right now. This is simply a special case for Dorchester, to divide up what was allowed to the Protestant chaplain among three or four religious denominations.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The matter will then become simply one of political patronage.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I object to the Secretary of State sweeping aside every objection which is made without having a knowledge of the statements which are being put forward. My hon. friend said that the old Act made no provision for the appointment of chaplains.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I said the very reverse. I said it has been going on for thirty years.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I asked my hon. friend to point out to me the existing law with reference to the appointment of chaplains. My hon. friend answered that clause 27 of the Bill was practically the same as the old law.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That was an answer made by the hon. gentleman from Halifax.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—In section 22 of the old Act, we find express power given to the Governor in Council to appoint Protestant and Roman Catholic chaplains. Now, the position I take is this: if this clause be stricken out there is no power in the Bill, as far as it has been pointed out to me by my hon. friend who has charge of it, to appoint chaplains. Under section 27 power is not given to the minister to appoint chaplains.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I say it is.