

Sabbath day. If such legislation should be granted, what would be its effect if this Bill should become law? It will be Sunday in Nova Scotia when it is Saturday in New Brunswick, and as there is only an imaginary line between the two, a man may be quite within his right in attending a dance in one Province when at the same hour he would be punished for it in the adjoining Province. Then a great deal of our literature will be destroyed: we have heard that at the hour of one at night the graves open and give forth their dead to air themselves. If a fellow gets out of his grave at that hour at night and finds that instead of the clock striking the solemn hour of one it comes down to twenty-four, how would he ever have the courage to get up to walk? You have all heard the story of the man in Ireland who was travelling along a road and was asked by a tramp what hour it was. He thought the object of the tramp was to get him to take out his watch so that he might snatch it, so he just struck the tramp a blow and said: "It has just struck one." The tramp remarked: "Begor, I'm glad I didn't ask you an hour ago," but if instead of striking once he had struck twenty-four what would have become of the tramp? There is not the slightest use of this Bill. I will ask the hon. member from Burlington if when he asks a conductor on a train what o'clock it is, and receives the reply that it is twenty-four o'clock, he does not laugh in his countenance, and does he not think that he is making a dashed fool of himself? I am an old man, and as it has been said, you cannot teach an old dog new tricks, I would prefer, when the conductor on the train is asked what time it is that he should take out his watch and state the time in the old way. If, as the hon. gentleman says, this new system is the rule in the United States, then I think it is a good reason why it should not be the rule here. I shall move that this Bill be not now read the second time, but that it be read the second time this day three months.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I agree with the hon. gentleman from Halifax. The mover of the Bill should have shown us some reason for this legislation, some advantage to be derived from it. He has failed to do so, to my comprehension, at all. It is impossible to decide the notation of time in the different Provinces by their

geographical position. Quebec runs far to the east of Nova Scotia, yet you fix the time of Quebec, by this Bill, two hours later than the time of the Province of Nova Scotia. It seems to me that the Bill almost destroys the solar system. I cannot tell what time to say prayers or what time to dance under this Bill. It certainly is not consistent with the geographical position of the Provinces.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B. C.)—I think that the House is much indebted to the hon. gentleman who has brought this Bill before us. Not only is it in the right direction, but after it becomes law—and it will become law before long, notwithstanding the opposition that is made to it—people in a very short time will wonder why they did not adopt it sooner. It is within the recollection of most of us when our money was counted in pounds, shillings and pence, and we thought that when the decimal system was adopted it was an awkward way of counting money, but I ask who in this country would go back again to the old system of reckoning money? We must keep pace with the age. The period of stage coaches has gone by, and this computation of time by the twenty-four hours system is the correct one. It has been in force for the last two or three years west of Lake Superior. Any of you who have been over the Canadian Pacific Railway know that on arriving at Port Arthur you have to put your watch back one hour. When you reach Brandon you put it back another hour; then, at Donald you put it back another hour. All that distance between Port Arthur and Brandon there is but one local time—uniform time everywhere between the two points. Not only is the new system in force on the railway line, but in all the towns from Port Arthur to the Pacific coast it has been adopted, and I am quite sure that you could not induce the people of the North-West or British Columbia to return to the old system of a.m. and p.m. It is also an improvement, inasmuch as it has already proven to be a great means of preventing accidents on our railways, and I cannot see that the objections raised by the hon. members from Amherst, Lunenburg and Halifax hold good. If the standard time is adopted in Nova Scotia it will be uniform over fifteen degrees, so that I cannot see that there will be any