

an end in itself. Everyone has the speed fever in this country. One of Ontario's ablest judges, the late Chief Justice R. M. Meredith, addressing the grand jury at the assizes in London more than seven or eight years ago, said:

And as now nearly everyone is a car owner and car driver, young and old of all sorts and conditions, it is difficult to get justice in even a civil action. Car-driver-jurors have nearly all the speed fever; and self-preservation instincts are so strong that they will not be persuaded to decide against drivers who have been no more unlawful than they themselves often, if not commonly, are.

What then is the remedy? I think it should be: make the laws plain and reasonably severe and enforce them; and cancel licences freely.

Since that time parliament interfered in 1930, and now no one can tell what the law is. I have read three or four presentments of the grand jury of the county of York at the assizes. It is impossible to convict men of manslaughter or criminal negligence owing to the loopholes made in the criminal code by that statute. As Mr. Justice Meredith said, everyone has the speed fever. He might have added, except the House of Commons. We ought to have been through here long ago. If the statute of limitations were amended to provide that parliament could sit for only four months, we might get some relief from large sessions, no one but a millionaire will be able to afford to belong to parliament. The senate is exempt from this statement; they do not suffer from the speed fever, except in the last days of the session.

It would be misleading and mischievous to attribute all blame for the present state of road traffic, with all its ghastly horrors, to those who drive and use motor vehicles. But it is beyond dispute that they have a very large portion to their discredit. This small minority of drivers appear to have exploited for their pleasure or profit the generous tolerance of others in a very irresponsible, callous and appallingly cruel manner. Their fault is grievous and they can have no ground for complaint if they are put under restraint. Ignorance and thoughtlessness are but small palliation. Obedience is the only reparation they can make; it is very long overdue. Last year I brought this matter to the attention of the house and I said it is one of Canada's greatest scandals; so it is, this daily slaughter of men, women and children, and one of the worst features is the absolute public indifference. I find it hard to explain this indifference. The church, the pulpit, the general public and legislative bodies take it all as a matter of course and form and toss

it aside, while public officials and legislators go out and collect a few statistics about it, and the net result of their effort does not lessen the slaughter; it leads to nothing but a shameful and glorious fiasco. The highway department collects statistics but the slaughter still goes on. The press with a few notable exceptions say nothing about it, but devote pages to reports of a selection of ten handsome men here, a House of Commons Follies of 1936 with a star cast, making out of this House of Commons a house of nonsense.

People of sober thought in this country are becoming fed up with all this. The other day I attended the funeral of a great newspaper man, Harry W. Anderson, one of the greatest men this country has produced, and before attending that funeral I attended the funeral of a man killed in the riding represented by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Massey). The breadwinner was taken from a family of five small children, and I promised the widow that I would bring this matter once more to the attention of the house. The fact that two hon. ladies are in this house does not mean that they represent all the women of this country; they do not. I represent the women of my constituency. They are the people who are suffering, and they are fifty per cent of the voters of the country. They know what it is to lose the breadwinner and be put out on the street with a family of small children, and they are crying out to this house against this reckless slaughter. Let us cease being a house of follies and do something to protect the long-suffering public of this dominion who are being massacred and slaughtered on the highways. The past few years have shown the decay of parliament, as we see in the way this question is being dealt with. In the death of our people we are reaping the result of this inaction. If the invader were at our gates we would mobilize our whole effort to defeat him, yet in Canada a most shocking and un-Christian slaughter and legalized murder go on day and night, winter and summer, a carnage that is worse than war, that stains red all the main roads of this, a civilized country, and the world goes on just the same as ever.

The abuse of the motor car is one of the unpardonable sins of the age; it is a real menace to organized society in Canada to-day. If a baffling disease were taking the toll of life exacted on our highways day by day science would know no rest until a remedy was found. Great Britain and the United States are waging war against this slaughter. Mayor LaGuardia of New York has had a committee appointed; they are getting results, but we are not. The privation and sorrow,