

Commerce, so that an opportunity may be afforded to any person who still desires to make representations on the subject.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

THE LORD'S DAY.

House in committee on Bill (No. 12) respecting the Lord's day.

On section 9,

It shall not be lawful for any person on that day to shoot at any target, mark or other object, or to use any gun, rifle or other engine for that purpose.

Mr. AYLESWORTH. I move to insert the word 'like' before the word 'object' so as to make it read :

It shall not be lawful for any person on the Lord's day to shoot at any target, mark or other like object.

There was some contention that this clause was intended to prohibit shooting at a living animal, hunting game or something of that kind. If there is any apprehension on that score there will be no objection to adding at the end of the clause a limitation such as this :

So as to disturb the occupants of any dwelling house or place of worship.

There is no other idea than that which the marginal note indicates of prohibiting target practice.

Mr. BEAUPARLANT. (Translation.) Mr. Chairman, the interpretation which the hon. Minister of Justice has just given to the clause of the Bill now under discussion, calls for a suggestion, that of adding the word 'light' or 'léger.' This would confer the right of shooting at big game, but not at small game. That is something, but that does not convey the meaning that shooting in general would be allowed. However, should there be any ambiguity, I will undertake to make an addition to the effect either of confirming the proposition of the hon. Minister of Justice or of ensuring in a more precise manner the result aimed at. If I understood the hon. Minister of Justice aright, he proposes to add in the second line after the word 'other' the word 'light.'

Mr. PICHE. (Translation.) I think my hon. friend is mistaken. The word which the hon. Minister of Justice would add is the word 'like,' and not the word 'light.'

Mr. BEAUPARLANT. (Translation.) Then it is yet more evident to me that the suggestion made by the hon. minister does not go so far as to warrant the effect which is contemplated. Even with that word the clause as it reads surely does not allow shooting, because it forbids shooting at anything at all, and at law the object of game shooting is undoubtedly a thing, as I will

show in a moment. I, therefore, move that the word 'inanimate' be added between the word 'other' and the word 'object.' I think this amendment will fully answer the purpose which seems, futher, to be unanimously agreed upon, judging by the ideas which have been expressed, rather than by the wording of the law as it now reads, even with the addition made by the hon. Minister of Justice and which I propose to replace by the word 'inanimate.' I have discussed the matter over on several occasions with members of the Select Committee which had been appointed to study the Bill and notwithstanding their statements to the effect that game shooting was allowed, notwithstanding the law in its actual form, I entertain some doubt, and I thought I should inquire more fully into the meaning of the clause by examining in the light of the best legal authorities, the technical sense of the words upon which the interdiction was bearing. I arrived at the conclusion that with the actual text, the interdiction bears upon 'animate' and 'inanimate' things as well, for at law, the word 'thing' includes both. I will quote Dalloz, 'Répertoire de Législation,' volume 8, page 211, in support of my pretention: 'Things—Is said of all that which exists in nature.' Now, game is a thing which exists in nature, and if you prohibit shooting at anything you certainly prohibit shooting at game, and therefore you prohibit hunting.

Now, if I go back to the Roman law, I find in one of its commenters, Accarias, 'Précis de Droit Romain,' volume 1, page 415, that the word 'thing' includes, 'with the exception of free men, all that which really exists either animate or inanimate beings.' If I go to the English law for an appreciation of the English version of the clause, I find in 'Bouvier's Law Dictionary,' volume 2, in the alphabetical part extending from J to Z, page 531, the following :—

Object.—That which is perceived, known, thought of, or signified, that toward which a cognitive act is directed. Century Dictionary. The term includes whatever may be presented to the mind as well as to the senses.

I think I need not say any more to demonstrate that if the clause is left as it is—even with the hon. minister's amendment—carrying the interdiction of shooting at anything or object, you maintain that interdiction, both as to things or objects which are animate or inanimate, and therefore, notwithstanding a different interpretation which the courts are not bound to give heed to in presence of a formal text, game shooting is prohibited. Now, by the amendment which I propose I mean to clearly allow game shooting, and to that end, the interdiction should be limited to inanimate things, which is the exact purpose of my amendment. I am personally against the