

uninhabited section of the county; and the end of the Point, where the fight took place, is twenty-five miles from the mainland. It was necessary for the Sheriff, in order to suppress that infraction of the laws, to charter a steamer, as the place was inaccessible in any other way. The Sheriff did, therefore, charter a steamer, the *Annie Craig*, and employed to assist him a portion of the 39th Battalion. They proceeded in the steamer to Long Point and suppressed the fight, the Sheriff deserving great credit for his action. In doing so he incurred an expense of several hundred dollars which he has been left to pay out of his own pocket. The authorities of the Dominion and of Ontario both refused to pay that expense, claiming that the act did not come within their jurisdiction; and without venturing to advance any opinion on the matter, I beg to call the attention of the Government to the fact, that the Sheriff of Norfolk county is yet out of pocket several hundred dollars for having discharged his duty in this respect.

Mr. McDONALD (Picton). I fancy that my hon. friend from Welland will not, at least I hope he will not, ask the privilege and protection of the press which the hon. member for Norfolk seems so solicitous about. My own impression is that after this Bill passes, should a reporter be sent to it from my hon. friend's newspaper, both the reporter and the hon. gentleman would deserve the punishment which the Bill seeks to impose. And I am quite certain that he would be not only very careful, but very anxious to obey the law, so far as the great influence of his paper went, and would endeavor to impress the importance of the law upon the general sentiment of the public. I dare say when the Bill goes to Committee there may be some amendments suggested by hon. gentlemen, and so far as these will tend to perfect the Bill and carry out the common object we have in view in relation to it, it will give me great pleasure to accede to them. I do not intend to make any observations whatever as to the very eloquent, happy, and humorous speeches which we have heard from the member for Niagara (Mr. Plumb) and the member for Ottawa (Mr. Wright). I presume they seized the opportunity of showing how keen their blades were, how readily they could set their lances in rest, and how, if they do not indulge in the more demoralizing contest of a prize fight, they were ready to enter the intellectual arena and show with what skill, energy, and keenness they would contest the battle of intellectual strife.

Bill read the second time.

House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on said Bill.

(In the Committee.)

On clause 4,

Mr. PLUMB. I think that one of the worst features of the prize fight is the brutal report of it which frequently appears in the newspapers; and these reports are all the more to be reprehended, because, if they were not published, those who engage in, and attend these contests would be deprived of one of the chief incentives to such encounters. I do not think that my hon. friend from Welland (Mr. Bunting) would choose to make his paper—the leading paper in Canada—the medium of giving prominence to reports which are prized by the sort of people who attend these brutal and demoralizing contests. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) is no doubt a stickler for the freedom of the press, but I think that that freedom should be kept within such limits as to prevent such reports being brought before the public, by the punishment of the person who writes the disgusting and demoralizing details in common with all others connected with the prize ring. I do not think my hon. friend would himself attend a prize fight, even if there were one, as there was one,

Mr. CHARLTON.

contiguous to his own residence in Norfolk. I do not think he would lend his countenance to such contests, and I think he would be one of the first to prevent the perusal in his own family of the brutal and disgusting details of the semi-savage encounters of the prize ring. I, therefore, hope that anything which has been said by him will not induce the Committee to strike out that part of the Bill which would prevent the ubiquitous reporter from earning the small fee which he would be paid for reporting so demoralizing a spectacle as a prize fight.

On clause 10,

Mr. LONGLEY. I have not paid much attention to the Bill, but I have presumed it to be correct in every respect; and as I am by no means in favor of the prize ring, I am gratified that such a measure has been introduced. I desire, however, to seize the opportunity of making an observation or two upon a subject which, as I think, has a tolerably direct connection with the one under consideration. It is, indeed, a brutal spectacle to see two men engaged in a pugilistic encounter, pummelling one another until they are scarcely recognizable. But I conceive there is something, usually associated with such exhibitions, of a still more demoralizing character. We usually find that the persons who attend such exhibitions are of the most degraded description, men of vicious propensities and accustomed to sensual indulgence of almost every kind. But there is, speaking generally, no particular feature connected with such exhibitions of such a revolting character as that which proceeds from the bottle. I might be excused if I expressed the gratification which I experience, when I see the readiness on the part of the bulk of the hon. members of this House to discountenance pugilistic encounters and to give their support to a measure calculated to do away with such exhibitions. I only wish that I could see gentlemen occupying important positions in society, and in most of the relations of life, setting a very excellent example, perhaps, to their neighbors and friends, take half the interest in a question far transcending in importance to this question, and then we should not have to struggle so hard in this House and out of it in order to promote that particular object. I venture to say that if you could do away with the use of intoxicating liquors, before a very long time such would be the elevation of humanity at large, that you would not have to frame laws to prevent prize fighting. It is a resort to the bottle, the depraving influences that result from the liquor traffic, the use of intoxicants by high and low, that give to prize fighting all its revolting character; in fact, I may say it is that which, in a very large measure, incites to such exhibitions. Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to avail myself of this opportunity to deliver a temperance lecture, because I believe that a good many hon. gentlemen here, for whom I have a very high respect after all, do not listen with a great deal of patience to such lectures. Still I am not without hope that they may benefit in some slight degree, at any rate, in the gentle admonition which I have ventured to give them. At least I do trust that they will take into account all that relates to the happiness and progress of society, and the well being of people for this world, and the world to come, connected with the drinking customs of society, and that on a more suitable opportunity we may witness the good results of this gentle admonition.

Mr. BOULTBEE. I am not able to speak with the same clearness in the narration of the features of a prize fight as the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Longley), because I never was present at one—

Mr. LONGLEY. I thought as much.

Mr. BOULTBEE. That hon. gentleman is able to depict even the appearance of their faces very graphically, and is also able to say that they generally partake largely of intoxicating liquors, so I suppose he must have been an eye