

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I should like to ask if an order is placed for a quantity of patent medicines, would that be considered in stock?

Hon. Mr. KERR—No.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Should we pass an Act to interfere with the contract which has been made?

Hon. Mr. KERR—I move that the words 'The hands,' be struck out, and make it read 'In stock at the time.'

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I object most decidedly. This Bill has been discussed a great deal. A compromise was agreed upon with the minister. I have consented to approve of that. I think it is going a long way. Canada is behind the rest of the civilized world on this question of drugs, and I think the trade requires some reasonable restraint. There is a safeguard in the Bill by withholding its coming into force except on proclamation. No doubt the Governor in Council will have many applications on the subject. The hon. gentleman from Wellington has had conversations with a good many parties interested, and in conversation with them, we agreed to this compromise. I hope the House will not go further. It is a different matter when we are dealing with substances which benefit society. Here we are dealing with drugs which poison. Why should we extend the delay where human life is at stake? We should have some respect for the lives of our people. With regard to the question of opium, the dealers represent that they have \$40,000,000 invested in opium and its manufacture, and they desire from 6 to 12 months to dispose of it. I am opposed to that. I have consented to three months time. They give bonds that no part of their stock shall go into circulation in this country. If we are going to allow two or three years extension what will be the use of this law?

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—Parties will have to get an order in council by which dealers who have stock will be able to sell it. Immediately on the coming into force of this Act, there will be notice given that all retail merchants holding medicines will have

to make a distinct statement of what stock they have on hand. It will have to be returned to the government and sworn to. On receipt of that statement the government will issue a label that will have to be placed on every bottle of medicine that they hold, which will show that they are authorized by order of the Governor in Council to dispose of that specific medicine. If in the statement that they send in, there is such a thing as cocaine or any dangerous drug of that kind, the government reserve the right to cancel that and not grant any license for its disposal, but anything that is returned, which the government think is a medicine that might well be disposed of, the dealer has to put a label on it, which shows they have authority to sell, but only the balance of the stock they have on hand.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—In this list there are the most terrible poisons known to science. We have Prussic Acid, Spanish Fly, Chloroform, and every possible mixture of morphine, conia, Indian Hemp and every poison in materia medica. The man who made this list must have had a terrible opinion of human nature when he placed these frightful agencies on this list. The only way of settling it is this; let each dealer send to the Minister of Inland Revenue a list of the drugs he has in stock. If any of these medicines contain anything noxious or dangerous to life, the stock should be destroyed. There are many patent medicines that are harmless—something to play with, made up of harmless ingredients by people who want to make money fast, but who have a conscience. There are two classes of people making patent medicines, one class having a conscience and the other class no conscience. If the minister permits drugs to be sold which are devoid of noxious substances, let them do so; that is all right. But if the medicine contains drugs that are noxious poisons they should be destroyed.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—As the hon. gentleman has given us a list of those medicines which contain poison, he might give us also a list of those out of which no poison can be extracted.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—There are lots of harmless medicines.