

"We Canadians should adhere to the English method of spelling, rather than that adopted in the United States. I do not desire to take up the time of this House with trifles, but this matter, in my opinion, is no trifle. There is a growing tendency in Canada to adopt the United States method of abbreviating the spelling of words by dropping out letters. The good, old, well-established English spelling should be maintained."

Sir Allen alluded to the fact that the "good old English spelling" was "Hudson's Bay," while the United States had adopted and amended the term in "Hudson River." He deplored the general tendency to follow American forms of spelling. "It is," said he, "the English language that we speak, and we look to England for our standards of orthography and geography. I believe that we in the Canadian Parliament, in all our official writings, do well to maintain that standard, whatever the newspapers or other people may see fit to do."

The suggestion of the Minister of Justice was unanimously adopted, and the bill in question amended accordingly.

It is unfortunate that so many of those who have it in their power to preserve in this country the purity and the beauty of the English language seem to prefer to do what they can to debase it. How many of our school teachers set an example of the use in common conversation of the rules which they teach or should teach in their classes? In works of fiction, of which so many are now being written for the perusal of the youth of this country, why do the writers think it appropriate to make the country people speak a language which certainly is not English, whatever else it may be, and which in point of fact they do not use in ordinary conversation? Why do they make the children going home from school talk to each other in the strange compound of Yankee slang and bad grammar which is no more English than Choctaw? If the children attending our common schools do really talk the gibberish put into their mouths by the story-teller, then our system of education is wanting in one of its most important features. But the worst offenders of all, because the most widely read, are our daily newspapers.