

Statutory Holidays

our families as much as we should, and we gradually have lost our shape. If we had had that long week end that tendency would possibly have been to some extent curtailed. I therefore feel that I can support this bill, Mr. Chairman. It will not interfere with the principles of anybody. I find that on Armistice day certain people who lost friends overseas are always out. On church holidays those who believe in their church go to the proper place. Some go fishing, as has been mentioned by the hon. member for Macleod, on the extra day. But they usually do not catch anything on that extra day anyway. I am supporting the bill as it originally stands.

Mr. Sinnott: Having listened attentively to the mover of this bill and the fair member on the opposite side of the house lock horns with the famous member for Temiscouata, it gave me great pleasure, and also gave our famous Barbara Ann Scott, now sitting in the diplomatic gallery, and her party great pleasure.

Mr. Pouliot: Just one word; I am for the bill because the sponsor looks forward to the holiday on the following Monday. I am against the amendment of the hon. member for Peel, because he goes both ways, forward and backward.

Mr. Herridge: I did not intend to say anything in this debate; but most hon. members will acknowledge the fact that as a socialist I certainly have the interests of the working people of this country at heart.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Graydon: That does not follow at all.

Mr. Herridge: I want to say this, if my good friends opposite will give me an opportunity. In this matter I am very sympathetic to some of the points of view expressed by the hon. members to my right. We should give careful consideration to what appears to some hon. members to be a fairly light matter. I believe the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard, who introduced this bill, did so with the best intentions and wants it to serve a good purpose, but I am not convinced, Mr. Chairman, that making provision in this way for just two extra long week ends is justified, without finding out public opinion of the suggested change. I do not think it is worth upsetting the longtime habits, traditions and practices of fourteen million people without further consideration.

The Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Some hon. Members: No.

Amendment negatived.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—*Victoria day*.

Mr. Graydon: You are going too fast for me, Mr. Chairman. I have lost my amendment. I want to move another amendment. I move:

That clause 2 of section 2 of the said bill be amended in line 2 thereof by deleting the words "Monday following the twenty-third day of May" and substituting therefor the words "Monday nearest in point of time to the twenty-fourth day of May."

I made a little better job of my handwriting on this and I hope this amendment will finally go through.

The Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Gillis: We cannot hear very well down here, and I really did not understand what you were saying, sir. I should like to be clear about it. Would you mind reading it again?

The Chairman: Mr. Graydon moves:

That clause 2 of section 2 of the said bill be amended in line 2 thereof by deleting the words "Monday following the twenty-third day of May" and substituting therefor the words "Monday nearest in point of time to the twenty-fourth day of May."

Mr. Gillis: Mr. Chairman, I listened with a lot of attention to the deliberations on this bill. As perhaps only one of the very few workmen of the house—

Mr. Cruickshank: Since when?

Mr. Gillis:—may I say that the reasons advanced as to why we should make this change at this time do not impress me very much. I am in agreement with what was said by my deskmate a few moment ago. I remember that during the last war for production reasons many of the statutory holidays of this country were dispensed with altogether. Armistice day was done away with, and so forth. I am not unmindful of the fact that the government is now going into a huge defence program. It is going to require a lot of manpower, and there may be a lot of overtime work. I am also aware of the fact that most of the industries of this country today work a five-day week. They are not working on Saturdays. I did not look at the calendar, and have not had much chance to go over the implications of this bill; but you could run into this. The holidays that you are wanting to change now could very well fall on a Saturday, a day that is not producing anyway. If you lay the holiday over until Monday you will have two days of non-production in a row. I do not think that sufficient attention has been given to this matter by anybody in the committee to make any kind of intelligent decision, and I do not think the bill should go through at this time. I believe the bill should lie over tonight to give the press an opportunity to comment on it and to get some