

Whitney, Sir Adam Beck, and I were called communists and were described as nothing but "amateur anarchists" by Sir John Willison, an editor, because we wanted to preserve and reclaim the water powers of Ontario for the people of this province. It would have been well for the province of Quebec had the same thing been done there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member is far from the subject.

Mr. CHURCH: This bill encroaches upon the liberty of the subject. It puts us back about two hundred years. It is proposed to give the Postmaster General power to make regulations. He may prohibit the sending of communist literature. I listened recently to a certain rector preaching on Sundays, and I heard him declare that some communist teaching is in the bible and some of it in the Anglican prayer-book. One of our Anglican rectors has told us that. I have no sympathy whatever with the doctrines of this third international, or of the communist party of Canada, or of such groups. But I have every sympathy with the principle of the liberty of the subject. I believe in the principles of Liberalism as they are understood in the old country, the old Cornish battle-cry. I believe the hon. member would do something far better if he would bring in something practical to help unemployment and solve our social ills in this country. For these reasons I cannot see my way to support the principle of the bill.

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): I ask my hon. friend's pardon if I speak in English in replying to him, because I desire to be understood by all the members of the house. In his explanatory notes he says:

The purpose of this amendment is to enlarge the powers of the Postmaster General as to the making of regulations.

And for that purpose he would insert some words about communist literature. As a matter of fact, the postal law as it stands, and the regulations which have been enacted under that law, cover anything that might be objectionable; and I believe that what my hon. friend seeks to do, would, instead of enlarging these powers, have rather the effect of restricting their application to the particular doctrine described in his bill.

The law as it is at present is reproduced in the explanatory notes, and reads:

7. The Postmaster General may, subject to the provisions of this act,

(d) make regulations declaring what shall and what shall not be deemed to be mailable matter for the purposes of this act . . .

And regulation 204 of the Post Office Department, which has been regularly published in the *Canada Gazette* and which is binding, reads:

204. If it be established to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that any person is engaged or represents himself as engaged in the business of publishing any obscene or immoral books, pamphlets, pictures, prints, engravings, lithographs, photographs or other publication, matter or thing of an indecent, immoral, seditious, disloyal, scurrilous or libelous character, or in the business of an illegal lottery, so-called gift concerts, or other similar enterprise offering prizes or concerning schemes devised or intended to deceive or defraud the public for the purpose of obtaining money under false pretences, or in the business of selling or in anywise disposing of counterfeit money or what is commonly called "green goods," or of drugs, medicines, instruments, books, papers, pamphlets, recipes, prescriptions, or other things with the object or with the pretended object of preventing conception or procuring abortion, and if such person shall, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, endeavour to use the post office for the promotion of such business, or if it be established to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that any persons are using, or endeavouring to use the post office for any fraudulent or illegal purpose, then, in any such case, it is hereby declared that no letter, packet, parcel, newspaper, book or other thing sent or sought to be sent through the post office by or on behalf of or to or on behalf of such person shall be deemed mailable matter.

Then regulation 205 prescribes:

It is forbidden to post for delivery or transmission by or through the post any obscene or immoral book, pamphlet . . . or other publication, matter or thing, of an indecent, immoral, seditious, disloyal or scurrilous character. . . .

In short, anything that is subversive, seditious, that advocates the use of force for the purpose of bringing about any change in the government of Canada, is already prohibited under the regulations of the Post Office Department. This does not mean that some do not find their way into the mails, but as I stated, the regulations cover any literature of the kind described by my hon. friend, and cover more. They cover not only subversive literature coming from the communists but subversive literature coming from people who, under the pretence of fighting communism, are also circulating literature which is objectionable and is advocating illegality and other things.

I agree with most of what my hon. friend stated about communism and communists; I agree that we must combat such doctrines, especially the doctrine which is exemplified in the various writings which he has read to the house to-night. But the communists are not the only ones who have been using force to change governments in the world. They are not even the only ones who have circulated literature and committed acts against