

making of national character. I assure him that protection was not the question; it was a question of having foreign advertising in Canada make some contribution to the country. I want to be fair.

Mr. MARCIL: I do not want to speak of the economic side of the question; it has been fully discussed on both sides and there are two views that cannot be easily reconciled. I have, however, spoken in former years on this very subject and I will repeat now what I have previously said.

There is no objection to decent literature coming into Canada from the United States; we can stand that even in the province of Quebec, which is least vulnerable in that regard, for the reason that three-quarters of the literature would not be read there. There are two classes of literature that come from the United States; one is very high and the other is a very low class, and it is to the latter that I wish to direct the attention of the department to-day. I am sure that the minister, passing by news stands, has been amazed at the illustrated magazines sold in Canada, especially to young people. That is where our duty lies; it is our duty to protect the younger generation. I know that the Department of National Revenue can ban certain literature coming from the United States, and the Post Office Department can also exclude certain publications. This trash coming from the United States enters the country in two ways, through the post office and by railway express, and I am afraid that the censorship that has been exercised is not what it should be. It is to that aspect of the matter that I draw the attention of the government. If they want to do the Canadian people a real service, now that the occasion presents itself, they should see that all trashy magazines calculated to pollute and degrade Canadian youth are banished from the country. If they do that I am willing to stand the consequences of what has been done here.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): I should like to refer to some of the remarks of the Minister of Finance. The hon. gentleman made a comparison, as I understood it, between the Hyde park soap box orations and the publication and distribution of United States magazines in this country. I do not think there is any comparison. The soap box orator discusses a matter before a limited number of people within the sound of his voice, which is an entirely different matter from a publication which is distributed throughout the country. If I am wrong in construing

[Mr. Bennett.]

what the minister said I hope he will correct me.

Then the hon. gentleman admitted that these publications were in existence before the Conservative government put through a measure of protection for Canadian magazines. He also admitted that these publications greatly expanded in Canada after that protection was established. I do not understand why the minister brings up these matters in condoning the action that is being taken by the government. In passing I may say I cannot understand how the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. McLean) is able to get a magazine subscription for 50 cents now for which he had to pay \$1.75 when the protection was on. It must have been that the publishers of that magazine intended to penalize him, to make him as a Canadian pay for the loss of advertising and circulation they suffered.

Mr. FINN: The leader of the opposition raised the point in reference to the morals of our young people and the non-application of the criminal code to the sale, distribution or having in his possession the sort of literature to which the right hon. gentleman referred as coming in from the United States. Entirely outside the agreement that is to be entered into between Canada and the United States, my right hon. friend, as a member of the legal profession, knows that section 207 of the criminal code deals with this question. So that there may be no doubt on that point in the mind of any person who desires that the morals of our people should be raised rather than lowered, as we all do, and that salacious literature should not be allowed in our homes or in our bookstands, I should like to read the section to the committee:

Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who knowingly, without lawful justification or excuse, makes, manufactures or sells, or exposes for sale or to public view, or distributes or circulates ... or has in his possession for sale ... any obscene book or other printed, typewritten or otherwise written matter, or any picture, photograph, model or other object tending to corrupt morals, or any plate for the reproduction of any such picture or photograph—

So it does not matter whether it comes from the United States or from any other part of the world, once it enters into the possession of a bookseller in Canada and is offered for sale that bookseller comes under this section. In this way the criminal code protects the morals of both young and old and prevents salacious matter from coming into their hands, with a possible penalty of two years in the penitentiary for offering for