

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The parents may have done everything for the boy, and yet may have had to send him to a reformatory. In that case I think the feelings of the parents should be consulted. I presume the apprenticeship is not to extend beyond the term of imprisonment.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It is expressly limited to the term of imprisonment.

HON. MR. MASSON—When a boy is a ward of the Government he is placed in an institution where there are Protestant and Catholic chaplains. That is the provision that the State makes for their moral training. If you place them under a person of a different denomination from the parents I think you are going against the intention of the Legislature and against the intention of the Government in appointing chaplains to those institutions. You are taking away from the child the very protection which it is the intention of the Government to give by appointing chaplains, and putting the boy under the control of persons in whom the parents may have no confidence.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not understand that we are requiring the child to be placed under a man of a different denomination from his own.

HON. MR. MASSON—He may be.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend in his own statement says that the child is the ward of the Government. The Government is for the time being his sole guardian, to protect him from being improperly treated in any way, and I think we may safely trust the superintendent of the institution, who has charge of the boy's education and moral training, and the Attorney-General, who is the supervisor of the superintendent, not to place the boy where he is in any danger of being proselytized. This is the clause which the Manitoba Government request us to pass, and I do not see any reason why we should not accede to that request.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The object of putting the boy in this reformatory is to improve his character, and that object is lost entirely if you put him out to some one to get the value of his services, regardless of the object for which he was placed in the reformatory.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I understand my hon. friend's objection goes to the binding out of the boy at all. Is it better that the boy should be kept among criminals, or that he should be put out, as the Government of Manitoba request, with respectable and trustworthy persons, outside of the influences which must surround the very best industrial school? Everybody confined in such an institution must be more or less tainted with vice, or he would not be there, and to remove a boy from such association and place him with a respectable and trustworthy person, in order to make him useful, and to teach him habits of industry, to give him a moral training, and enable him to acquire any other knowledge that would be likely to be acquired in a family, is surely better than leaving him amongst criminals.

HON. MR. POWER—With respect to the objection of the hon. gentleman, that this is a suggestion coming from the Government of Manitoba, it does not strike me that there is any great force in it. This Parliament enacts criminal laws, and to say that because the Manitoba Government has sent us a draft of a Bill, therefore we should not make any alteration in it—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I never said that we had not the right to alter it.

HON. MR. POWER—No; but the hon. gentleman used that as an argument why we should not. There are a good many things which the Government of Manitoba do which I do not think the hon. gentleman would be prepared to endorse or stand by. I do not think that we should stand by this if it is not fair.

HON. MR. PERLEY—It is a Grit Government.

HON. MR. POWER—Not all Grit Governments are good. I think we ought to have a little regard for the boy's parents. As the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg has suggested, there are cases where a boy may commit some comparatively trivial offence, and get into the reformatory, where his parents have not been guilty of any serious neglect or actual misconduct at all. Just fancy the feelings, we will say, of a good Presbyterian mother whose boy has been bound out to a Catholic farmer!

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not believe it would do him any harm.