

fairly light offence the English courts will without hesitation sentence a man to a year in jail. Yet in the last three years the number of deaths through automobile accidents in England has been increasing.

Hon. Mr. LEGER: Why not cut these penalties in two?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I think the penalties proposed here are severe, but I appreciate the necessity of eliminating reckless driving. We should not forget that this section applies not only to those who drive recklessly, but also to those who drive "in a manner which is dangerous to the public." What does that mean? Anybody who drives a car knows that he frequently does something which might fall within the meaning of that phrase. Every time you go a few inches over the centre of the road you are, I suppose, doing something dangerous. As my honourable friend from Leeds (Hon. Mr. Hardy) has said, the penalties are heavy.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: In cases of minor infractions of the law, summary proceedings would be taken.

Section 16 was agreed to.

At 1 o'clock the Committee took recess.

The Committee resumed at 3 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: At 1 o'clock section 16 had been carried.

On section 17—plants, etc., growing in garden:

Hon. Mr. MARCOTTE: It seems to me there is absolutely no proportion between the fine and the term of imprisonment. The fine has been increased from \$20 to \$50—about two and a half times; but the term of imprisonment has been increased from one month to twenty-four months—twenty-four times.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend will observe the explanatory note on the opposite page:

The object of the amendments to sections three hundred and seventy-four and three hundred and seventy-five is to make the penalty conform to that contained in section three hundred and seventy for stealing certain animals. These amendments are made at the request of various municipal county councils.

It is simply a maximum penalty.

Hon. Mr. MARCOTTE: I know; but the honourable gentleman will certainly admit that if a man is to be fined \$50, it is not reasonable that in default he should be sentenced to two years' imprisonment. As I say, there is no proportion between the two.

Hon. Mr. COTE: You might make the term six months and so preserve some proportion, not only in the changes, but also in respect of the nature of the offences.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not intend to wrestle with these matters the whole afternoon. I am ready to accept a reasonable amendment.

Hon. Mr. COTE: I move that section 17 be amended by changing in the last line thereof the words "two years" to "six months."

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I accept the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

Section 17, as amended, was agreed to.

On section 18 cultivated plants, etc., growing elsewhere:

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The same amendment will apply to this clause. Substitute for the words "two years" the words "six months."

The amendment was agreed to.

Section 18, as amended, was agreed to.

On section 19— theft of automobiles:

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I wish to make a suggestion to the honourable leader of the Government. A stolen automobile is the indispensable instrument of the major crimes of to-day. But for the stolen automobile, there could be no spreading of these major crimes of a most daring and devilish character. I think we shall have to make it compulsory on every owner to lock the door of his car, and its ignition, and on the manufacturer to provide different keys for the ignition and the door. The motor can be started by an ingenious mechanical thief, but he might find it difficult to unlock the car door. It seems to me that in this day of the motor-car the public will have to be taught to help in the protection of property. The owner who leaves his car so that somebody can steal it does something not only harmful to himself, but vastly more harmful to life and property.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think it is an excellent suggestion, but I do not see how it can be put into effect just now.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Make it a punishable offence to leave a car unlocked.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: The City Council of London has instructed its police officers to remove the keys of any unlocked cars parked on the streets. This compels the owners