

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

NIAGARA FALLS OBSERVATION BRIDGE COMPANY

Mr. A. B. DAMUDE (Welland) moved the second reading of Bill No. 15, to incorporate Niagara Falls Observation Bridge Company.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it will be necessary for me to make any extended remarks at this time in connection with this bill. This is a bill to incorporate the Niagara Falls Observation Bridge Company which is to erect a bridge between Niagara Falls, Ontario, and Niagara Falls, New York. It is felt that this bridge will be very much in the interests of the public at this particular time.

Mr. HEAPS: I notice by the newspapers that it is the intention of the Ontario government also to erect a bridge. May I ask the hon. member if the Ontario government have expressed any wishes in regard to the present bill?

Mr. DAMUDE: To the best of my knowledge this bill is in accordance with the wishes of the Ontario government and the Niagara Falls park commission.

Mr. MacNICOL: I may not be in order in asking this question, but I notice from the papers that one of the promoters of this company is related to one of the commissioners of the Niagara Falls park commission and another is related to the Minister of Highways of Ontario. If this report in the papers is correct, it does not seem quite right to me that this bill should go through.

Mr. DAMUDE: I think the statement with respect to the first gentleman is correct.

Mr. MacNICOL: Which one is that?

Mr. DAMUDE: The brother of a park commissioner, Mr. Kaumeyer, is named in the bill. There appears in the bill no blood relation of the Minister of Highways of Ontario, but his law partner is mentioned.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines.

LORD'S DAY ACT

PENALTY FOR DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS PERMITTING VIOLATION OF THE ACT

Mr. H. E. BRUNELLE (Champlain) moved the second reading of Bill No. 13, to amend the Lord's Day Act.

He said: This amendment to the Lord's Day Act is intended to bring about a better

observance of one of the ten commandments, namely, the one that says, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." I do not think I need say very much about this bill to hon. members as I have often noticed the atmosphere of piety that falls over the house when you, Mr. Speaker, lead us in prayer at the opening of our daily sittings. I am sure that this bill will meet with the approval of the house.

It has often been said that corporations have no heart. Two centuries ago Sir Edward Coke, who had much to do with the development of the law concerning joint stock companies, said that a corporation cannot commit treason, nor can it be excommunicated; for it has no soul. Hence the behaviour of corporations must be regulated by law. Certain works of necessity or of mercy are permitted to be done on Sunday, and it is not my intention to restrict the list of exceptions now given in the act.

Regretful as it may be, the fact is that certain corporations in the province of Quebec have been violating the provisions of the Lord's Day Act. Before saying anything further, let me comment on the fact that the directorates of these corporations are made up of all nationalities. There are French Canadians, English Canadians and American Canadians, probably in greater number, on these directorates. Our clergy have conducted a most strenuous campaign against these violations and complaints have been made by all classes in all communities without avail.

Our failure to put an end to these violations of the Lord's Day Act is evidently due in part to the fact that the penalties now provided are not severe enough and also to the fact that our working men or labourers are not sufficiently organized to resist the unlawful commands of their employers. Be it as it may, one must come to the conclusion that the penalties provided by the act have not been a sufficient deterrent. Section 14 of the act reads as follows:

Every corporation which authorizes, directs or permits its employees to carry on any part of the business of such corporation in violation of any of the provisions of this act, shall be liable, on summary conviction before two justices of the peace, for the first offence, to a penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars and not less than fifty dollars, and, for each subsequent offence, to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars and not less than one hundred dollars, in addition to any other penalty prescribed by law for the same offence.

The amended section will read as follows:

Any person, being a director, an officer, a superintendent or an employee of a corporation, to whose direction or orders any employee is by the terms or conditions of his employment