

committee rise and report progress. If the Bill is a good one, we should not take chances in throwing it out. After the discussion this morning, an opportunity should be given to see what can be done with the Bill, and it is much better to rise and report progress than to kill it.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—There are two questions before the House, the amendment of the hon. senator from Wellington and the motion of the hon. senator from Toronto that the committee rise. This Bill was before us last year for meditation and consideration, and it was withdrawn. It is here before us this year for consideration with a view to legislation. We have discussed it at considerable length. The amendment of the hon. senator from Wellington is one that should pass. Those who have goods on hand should not be prejudiced by the sudden action of parliament. The amendment would correct that evil. Therefore nothing remains except the amendment of the hon. senator from Edmonton, which is debatable. We should not debate that now. The Governor in Council has power to say when this Act shall come into force, and that will give people with goods on their shelves a chance to sell out without loss. For any goods unsold, labels could be furnished, and then they would not be contraband, so the case is perfectly clear. Then why should the committee rise? The House of Commons has given a great deal of time to the Bill, and we have discussed it at some length. Let us dispose of the first amendment, and if the Bill is shipwrecked at all, it will be shipwrecked in the House of Commons and not here. Let us dispose of the amendment of the hon. senator from Wellington first, and then we can deal with the amendment of the hon. senator from Edmonton. This is a vexed question and a serious question. We took a great deal of pains in Ontario trying to dispose of it, and failed. There is no legislation on the statute-book which covers the ground as well as this Bill does. It should protect life and at the same time be reasonable. A man as learned as the hon. senator from Kingston can read us lectures from the *Materia Medica* and the *Pharmacopeia* that will

make our heads ring, but that is not necessary. Let us show the country that we can legislate even on a different question.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I want to repeat what I have frequently said in years gone by, and it is more applicable at the present moment than in any past session, and that is the impropriety of submitting such contentious measures as this in the Senate a few hours before prorogation. There are conflicting opinions which it is difficult to reconcile in considering this question, and if anything would induce me to vote for the motion of the hon. senator from Toronto, it would be a desire to have the measure thoroughly investigated and considered by those affected by it before passing it. Any one who listened to the enthusiastic speech of the hon. Secretary of State to-day must commend him for his laudable desire to place noxious drugs beyond the reach of those who use them indiscriminately, and to the disadvantage, particularly, of younger people. The fact that the Bill, if passed, can only come into operation by proclamation of the Governor in Council, does not affect in the least the objectionable clause, and for this reason: suppose after considering the merits and demerits of the Bill and the effect it would have on the trade, the Governor in Council would have no power to change or amend one single word of it. All they could do would be, if after investigation they find it would be impolitic and improper to bring it into operation in its present state, is to allow it to remain a dead letter on the statute-book. This, with other Bills we are asked to consider, and particularly one of 104 clauses which went through last night in almost as many minutes, deserves more consideration than it has received at the hands of the Senate. We have been represented as being mere echoists of the House of Commons, simply because the government have a majority in the Senate, who will support without proper consideration any measure they may bring forward. If there is anything that will bring the Senate into contempt in the minds of the people, it is the manner in which we are in the last hours of the session dealing with most important questions affecting the country. I shall