

*Criminal Code*

taken part in this debate and brought out so many interesting points that are so necessary in the consideration of a resolution of this kind.

I would like to refer very briefly historically to water pollution. It is as old as the human race and perhaps Christ at Galilee, when he performed the miracle of turning water into wine, saw the necessity of protecting the guests who were there against the water which in that area would be grossly contaminated. In the South African war more soldiers were laid low by typhoid than by war and it was only through scientific research that typhoid and paratyphoid vaccine was made available and we were able to fight the war of 1914-18 to the extent that we did.

Medical science has emptied the hospitals of typhoid fever patients. This much medical science has done with the aid of sanitary science. It is with a sense of relief also that I take part in this debate for something specific, something that we have needed long to control rapidly what is becoming a major Canadian health problem. To me as a medical man and to hundreds of my medical colleagues the matter of water pollution is one of very real concern. We have been fortunate in Canada. Through municipal filtration plants, through chloridation and through the use of other chemicals we have been able reasonably well to protect our people against waterborne disease. But the problem is growing. Greater population and vastly increased industrial plants are adding daily to our dangers.

Filtration plants and the use of chemicals are only partial protection. They are only one phase of the defence against epidemic-threatening germs and bacteria that are latent in many of our waterways today. We are in the position of a country threatened by an aggressor neighbour that relies only on one branch of the service for a defence and that takes no steps to fight or to fit itself to strike back.

We have not a reasonably adequate defence for water pollution under present conditions, and I submit we have done very little, if anything, to hit one of the major sources of that pollution. The merit I see in this proposal is that it takes positive and specific action against those who selfishly or perhaps irresponsibly have done little or nothing to accept their responsibility for the well-being of the community at large.

When I rose, I said I was participating in this debate with a feeling of urgency. Thirty or forty years ago the Canadian economy was based largely on agriculture and on its raw materials shipped to other countries for processing. Agriculture and our raw materials

are still important to our national income. But, sparked by two world wars, we have become an industrial nation as well. More and more we are processing our raw materials and each year many additional millions of dollars are being added to our industrial capacity. New industry demands additional power and in spite of the greatly increased knowledge of atomic energy for peacetime uses, hydro-electric energy remains, and will remain for many years to come, our greatest source of cheap power for industry. More and more hydro-electric plants will be built and more and more new industries will be located in close proximity to those plants in order that they may reap the full benefit of cheap industrial power.

For the past 20 years the danger of water pollution by industry has increased over and over again. While the danger from waterborne disease has increased, the need for a supply of pure, uncontaminated water has likewise been growing at a comparable rate. The growth of our Canadian population in the years since world war II has been spectacular. The rate of natural increase has been high and has remained constant. We have been bringing new people into this country through immigration at an average rate of 150,000 a year. These additional people are one factor in the increased demand for a supply of clean, unadulterated water. Another is our changed way of living. As I mentioned previously, our economy has changed. No longer are we basically an agricultural nation. The trek to the cities from the farms has been constant and is increasing.

In the 13 years since the end of world war II our cities and towns have had a complete renovation. What in 1945 was peaceful, pastoral countryside adjacent to the cities is now part of the cities themselves. New housing developments have taken over the producing farms. The drainage ditches and the farm wells of 15 to 20 years ago have been replaced with sewage systems and municipal water mains. Domestically the demand for water has increased out of all proportion to our increase in population.

In industry the story is the same. More and more industry is using water in its processing. Today's modern industrial plant has all the amenities for comfortable working. Let me cite just one example of what these amenities mean in the increased demand for water. Today's modern factory is air-conditioned. Perhaps hon. members have not realized the importance of water in some airconditioning processes. I was amazed to learn on checking that to aircondition one large industrial building requires more water