

Hocken,
Hodgins,
Hoey,
Hopkins,
Hubbs,
Humphrey,
Irvine,
Jelliff,
Jones,
Kelly,
Kennedy (Edmonton),

Kennedy (Glengarry &
Stormont),
Kennedy (Port Arthur &
Kenora),
King (Huron),
King (Kootenay),
Leader,
LeSueur,
Lovie,
Lucas,
Macphail (Miss),
McBride,
McDonald (Timiskaming),
McMaster,
McQuarrie,
McTaggart,
Millar,
Milne,

Morrison,
Munro,
Murdock,
Neill,
Parent,
Preston,
Pritchard,
Reed,
Ross (Simcoe),
Sales,
Sexsmith,
Shaw,
Simpson,
Snowball,
Speakman,
Spence,
Spencer,
Steedsman,
Stewart (Argenteuil),
Stewart (Humboldt),
Stewart (Leeds),
Stirling,
Sutherland,
Thurston,
Wallace,
Ward,
Warner,
Wilson,
Woods,
Woodsworth.—93.

Mr. ROBERT FORKE (Brandon): I said nearly all that I can say on this question when the bill was before the House for its second reading, and I rise now largely for the purpose of expressing my views regarding certain sentiments that were voiced by the hon. member for Pontiac (Mr. Cahill). There are four provinces in western Canada which will have their eye on this debate, and I take this opportunity to place myself on record on the subject. I want to give credit to every member in this House for sincerity in his belief, and I am ready to think that everyone is acting conscientiously according to what he conceives to be right. I have not been altogether impressed by those who have gone to scripture to prove their case; I do not know that this will get you anywhere. I believe that the Scriptures are the proper place to go to in order to get an idea regarding the general conduct of life; but if you undertake to adjudge from scripture any individual action in everyday life, then I am afraid you will be involved in great difficulties. I do not think that anyone has proved anything from these quotations for the simple reason that we find hon. members speaking on both sides and quoting scripture to prove their case, putting their own interpretations upon it. If members are conscientious in their opinions, it seems to me a strange thing that any hon. gentleman should propose to introduce some system that would prevent others from endeavouring to have such opinions carried into effect. I think other methods can be found than blocking the business of the House when members

try legitimately to express their ideas of what they consider proper in any given case.

On this particular question, I have no hesitation in saying that I deplore the fact that divorce is increasing in Canada. Some want to tighten the law, considering it too lax. The hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) this afternoon expressed the view that the evil might be remedied if women were put on the same economic basis as men. I do not see the force of this contention, inasmuch as women to-day are occupying a status more on an equality with men than they have ever enjoyed before. And yet, this fact notwithstanding, divorce is rapidly increasing. Perhaps it is a tendency of the times. I noticed the other day that a judge in Winnipeg made the statement that crime was on the increase. Now, I want to speak guardedly because it is so easy for one to be misunderstood. But that judge expressed it as his opinion that the reason for this increase in crime

9 p.m. was the fact that mothers spent so much time reforming society

in public meetings and other places instead of instructing their children at home, as they used to do in days gone by. I am only repeating the opinion of this judge, and there may be some truth in that respect. I had an opportunity of speaking yesterday afternoon at a meeting and I will repeat a few sentences I used then. I have recently read a book by Harvey Robertson on "Mind in the Making", in which he points out the tremendous effect which the first few years of a child's training have on after life; and it is possible that a remedy can be found for some of the ills that are affecting the body politic at the present time if a little more care and attention were devoted to the education of our young people in the formative period of life, with a little less legislation. As I have said before, I think we are rather over-fond of legislation; and we become impatient of its restraint as soon as we have enacted it. If more attention were paid to the education of the young people I think greater good would result than we are likely to secure from too stringent legislation. The tendency of the time is towards greater liberty. I do not know exactly where we are going, and as I have said before, I deplore the fact that divorce is increasing. But as has been pointed out in this House, the evil that causes any divorce has existed long before the divorce is an accomplished fact; there must have been wrong living and wrongdoing that made it necessary.

I repeat that I would ask those who oppose divorce to believe that many of us who sup-