

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I have verified the statement of my hon. friend from Calgary with respect to indictments in the North-West, and I find that he is perfectly right—the phrase used should be “charge or indictment.” The only clause which remains is the one which was under discussion when the committee rose, and which I undertook to suspend the consideration of until further information could be obtained. Now, I find that that clause is copied word for word from the Ontario law, and it confers on the Superintendent and the Attorney General in Manitoba exactly the same powers that are conferred by the law respecting Ontario on the Superintendent of the Penitentiary Reformatory for boys, and on the Attorney General for Ontario, but I do not attach extreme importance to that. What I am sensible was exhibited last night was a distrust on the part of quite a number of hon. gentlemen in the House of a proper administration of the clause—a doubt on the part of some of them whether, in fact, such a power ought to be granted at all; and in view of the strong feeling which was shown against the clause last night, I do not propose to proceed with it. Further experience of the working of the law in Ontario may satisfy hon. gentlemen that it is a good clause. My own opinion is that it is a good clause, but that does not govern me in this respect. I propose to desist from it, because I find it would seriously offend the feelings of a good many hon. gentlemen in this House, and there is no desire to press on them any clause having this effect. especially when it can be easily postponed for another year. I therefore ask leave to withdraw that motion.

HON. MR. POWER—That is the new paragraph 86?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Yes.

The motion was withdrawn.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Does the hon. gentleman propose to make any change in the provision respecting threats?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—No; I had a view of my own on the subject, which is confirmed by the Minister of Justice. These threats which the hon. gentleman speaks of are in the nature of breaches of the

peace, and can be taken cognizance of by any magistrate under the Summary Convictions Act.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I cannot see much difference between a verbal threat and a threat in writing, and I see no reason why the two offences should be treated differently.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—If a man utters a threat *viva voce* he can be brought before a justice, and if the threat was sufficiently violent to justify it, he can be punished, or he may be held to bail to keep the peace.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Why make it different from threats by letter?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—These threats by letter are generally made for the purpose of extorting money.

HON. MR. POWER—I had proposed to move an amendment to the fourth clause of this Bill, but upon mentioning it to a friend of mine he indicated certain objections to so doing, and I do not therefore propose to move it: but I take the liberty of referring to a matter which must have come under the notice of nearly every member of this House. Anyone who read the evening papers yesterday must have been struck with the detailed account of a case of seduction by a member of the Civil Service, a servant of one of the Houses of Parliament, the plaintiff in the case being a girl a little over the age of sixteen years. I see by the morning paper that the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, awarding \$1,000. I do not know whether the parties interested intend to have this man criminally prosecuted. I think it is the duty of whoever is in charge of the Ontario criminal business in Ottawa to see that the machinery of the criminal law is set in operation against this man. I wish to call the attention of the leader of the House to this fact, that if the evidence in the case is to be relied upon, this is a case of most deliberate and cold-blooded character, and I think it is the duty of the Government, who are carrying this Bill through Parliament for the purpose of protecting innocent women throughout the country, to take that case into consideration, and to see that that man is dismissed from the public service if they are