

than a few minutes. The hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) has taken a strange position to-night. He conveys the insinuation that the friends of this Bill impute acts of cruelty to farmers. Nothing is more remote from my intention than that. Farmers are most kind to their animals. It is in the large cities that acts of cruelty exist, and it is there that the humane societies are working to get amendments to the law. I stand here as the spokesman of the various humane societies in Canada. When my hon. friend tells this House that I got the petitions printed in Ottawa, and sent them to Toronto to get them signed, he is very far astray. I sent no petitions to Toronto, or to Hamilton, or anywhere. They have come to me, and they have been numerously signed by good and kind-hearted people in every part of the country, and the only opposition to the Bill has emanated from some of the gun clubs. I am rather proud of the charge which my hon. friend threw across in this direction, that he had been assailed by ladies in the lobby to vote for my Bill. If we were to entrust all measures of kindness and humanity in regard to dumb animals to the ladies, the good cause would be safe.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BROWN. You may laugh if you like, but it is true I do not envy the hon. gentleman who thinks that the sympathy of the women of Canada is a thing which he has a right to sneer at. I leave the explanation of the Bill in the able hands of the Minister of Justice, but I state that acts of cruelty have been practiced for which the present law does not provide, and that this Bill, which I have introduced, and which I hope will become law, makes such provision as will effectually put a stop to many barbarous acts of cruelty, which, not only in regard to those who are concerned, but in regard to the surroundings in connection with these debasing sports, so called, are calculated to do harm to the people of Canada. I want the House to know the motives which led me to bring this Bill forward. The subject is exciting attention throughout the whole land. My hon. friend spoke of my spreading these petitions, among members of the House; I did so, and had I not a right to do so? These petitions came from Toronto and were presented by the members for that city and others, and to-day a petition was presented from the Women's Humane Society of this city. Appended to that petition are names of ladies who would be an ornament to any country in the world.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear. Name!

Mr. BROWN. I may tell hon. gentlemen that the name of the patroness of that society is the Lady Stanley of Preston, and the ladies who are on the managing committee of that society are ladies of which any country or any city might well be proud. The hon. member for Ottawa to-day had the honor of unrolling, in presence of the members here, a petition signed by a large number of the leading people of this city. I stand in my place here to-night and I say that of all the gun clubs in Canada, perhaps the St. Hubert's Gun Club of Ottawa is the most influential, and I venture to assert that the majority of the gentlemen composing that club are humane men, and they would support my Bill individually. My hon. friend has said that there was no cruelty in killing pigeons for food. I only object to killing them for the mere sake of killing. I tell him that I have known of cases of cruelty at pigeon matches where money was put up; and, as a rule, at these pigeon matches money is put up, and wherever there is a stake of that kind there is a general desire to see that the trapper is of the right sort, and if the birds do not get lively the trapper makes them lively. I have on my desk now the highest authority for stating that, at a match shot in Canada, one of the trappers had cayenne pepper in his pocket to put in the eyes of the poor birds to make them lively. There was cruelty, and it is to prevent such cruelty that this Bill is

introduced. I could go on for an hour giving you similar instances. I appeal to the House to support this measure, calculated as it is to reflect great credit upon the members and much good to the country. My hon. friend says he is a humane man, but yet he sees defects in this Bill, the very object of which is to encourage humane actions. If he is of opinion that it will do no harm and is in the right direction, why should he object to it? He is the champion of a few gun clubs; he has a well known still hunter who sits beside him who does not speak much, but all the same he is a good hunter. Sir, I venture to hope that the good sense of this House will support this measure and pass it. The passage of this Bill will show the people of Canada that the sentiments of their representatives are in favor of further prevention of cruelty to animals.

Mr. BERGIN. I am afraid that the hon. gentleman who has last spoken and the Minister of Justice, have fallen under the flatteries, and the persuasions, and the blanchishments of the ladies in the lobby, and I would not be at all surprised to find upon investigation that the fair ladies who so won the hearts of the susceptible Minister of Justice and the member for Hamilton (Mr. Brown) had on their bonnets wings taken from birds for the purpose of adornment. Sir, I do not believe that all the kindness of heart in this country is centered in the so-called humane societies. We have in this country various associations, and we find that in the so-called humanitarian associations the cranks generally rule. Now, Sir, we in this country are the descendants of the sons and daughters of Great Britain; our fathers came to this country from England, Ireland and Scotland, inheriting a taste for sport which every true born Briton loves, and we hope to continue to perpetuate in this country the sports which our fathers loved and which they introduced here.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. They did not introduce this.

Mr. BERGIN. I do not know what the hon. gentleman means by introducing this, but if he means that we did not introduce trap shooting from the old country then he is very much mistaken. There were pigeons shot in the old country by men of as kind hearts, eye, and as strong brain, and as truly loyal, as are any in Canada to-day. Sir, I repeat that this Bill is a charge of cruelty against the farmers of this country. The farmers, in almost every county in this country, almost immediately after the crops are in, every year have their turkey shooting matches, and is it not as cruel to shoot turkeys, eye, and more so, for they are much larger and may be supposed to suffer more? Is it not as cruel to shoot turkeys as it is to shoot pigeons? Are we, by passing this Bill, to deprive the young farmers of this country of their favorite pastime? Because under this Bill they will not be permitted to shoot turkeys at the usual season of the year; and besides you will deprive other people of their sport outside of the men who shoot pigeons and turkeys. Is it right to worry a fox?—I am speaking now as if I belong to one of the humane societies—is it right to worry a fox? Yet large sums of money are expended every year in keeping up our hunt clubs in Toronto and Montreal, which are a credit to this country. Is this sport to be put an end to because some people think that it is cruel to shoot pigeons from a trap? It is a thousand times more cruel to worry a fox to death with dogs. Sir, I have no doubt that the hon. member for Hamilton who to-day placed himself before this country as the man of the kind heart, who would scorn to be guilty of any cruelty, has forgotten that there is such a sport as fishing. He is, I believe, one of the most ardent fishermen in this country.

Mr. LANDERKIN. He fishes with butterflies.

Mr. BERGIN. I have not the least doubt of it. Yet if the hon. member for Hamilton is not a fisherman himself, I know the majority of his neighbors are, and that there are