

earnings of the Canadian National Railways and other railways on this continent. The Grey Line buses and several other lines of buses travel between the large cities of Ontario and some go with their connections as far south as the gulf of Mexico. There is a law in some states that these buses must come to a full stop and throw open their doors at every level crossing. That is not only the rule of many of the companies but the law of the state. This bill does not apply where there are gates or bells at level crossings, and it applies only to steam railways and to trunk lines, where most damage is done.

Another section of the bill deals with juries. Women have made good in the House of Commons and in the Senate, and I believe they can do still better work on the jury. They might better as jurors see that women and children get compensation for injuries caused in these automobile accidents. They might also insist upon legislation being passed making motor car insurance compulsory so that the injured can get some relief.

I appeal to the minister himself. I do not wish to give him too much trouble, but I believe the time has come when we should have a complete revision of the criminal code. It started away back in the early days of this century, but there have been many discoveries and inventions since then, and I think a committee of both houses should be appointed to bring about law reform and a new criminal code. It may be too late to do it this session but I am here to-night to plead the case of these helpless people on the highways. I am pleading for the pedestrians, the men, women and children whom I have seen killed or injured in these accidents.

The onus is on the government of the day so long as they are the government. The onus is not on me as a private member. I have nothing to do with these matters except as a member of parliament representing the constituency of Broadview. Danforth avenue is the busiest street in Canada for traffic and in that constituency I must say that I hate to cross at nights part of Danforth avenue because of the chance of being knocked down by the hundreds of cars of outside traffic passing along the road at a rate of speed that I have never seen anything the equal of. I am simply doing my duty to my constituents in bringing this matter up this session as several of them have been killed. I brought it up last session when we had a debate covering forty-six pages of

hansard, and all parties agreed that something should be done. As I said, the onus is on the government of the day to solve this problem. In the British House of Commons the Labour members have insisted on something being done. They have spoken out against the slaughter of their workmen and have asked for compensation as well. I admit, Mr. Speaker, that I am a little impatient when I see what is being done in other countries and, after bringing this matter up last session, getting no results here, I suggest that this bill be read a second time and perhaps then it might go to a committee, or in the recess the minister might consider appointing a committee of both houses or some other form of committee or commission to go into the problem, as they are doing in Washington, with three members of the cabinet on the committee. Otherwise what is going to happen between now and next Christmas? It simply means that three thousand more people will be killed or injured and put into hospital. The motor car is more successful in creating jobs, through killing people, than all we do in this parliament for unemployment. We are side-tracking this issue, but the people back home will ask us what we did here in Ottawa about it.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my hon. friend for the information he has given the house in support of his bill. As the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) told the house the other day, it is the intention of the government to introduce a bill to amend certain sections of the criminal code. I should not like to anticipate the introduction of that bill by making remarks, even in connection with the private bill introduced by my hon. friend, but I can assure him that the law officers of the department will carefully consider the argument he has offered in support of his request for certain amendments. If it is possible to insert some of his proposals in the government bill, it will be done. If we come to a different conclusion as to some of the provisions in his bill, the hon. member will be at liberty to move them as amendments to the government bill. In the meanwhile, if he will agree to my suggestion, I will move the adjournment of this debate and further discussion can be had on the matter when the government measure is before the house.

On motion of Mr. Lapointe the debate was adjourned.