

Take our jails. Many of them were built before confederation against all known laws of public hygiene. We have one in the constituency I represent. The late Doctor Hastings, the health officer and I, said it was not fit for human habitation. It has an efficient staff, good men, every one of them, but they are working under intolerable conditions. We built two farms, one for men and the other for women. It was intended that the old Toronto jail should be closed, but it is still open and packed to the doors, and a lot of them are sleeping on the floors. That should not be. Many of them are first offenders. I urged upon the government that the criminal code should be amended to require magistrates to give bail and time to pay fines in many of these cases under the Summary Offenders Act, as they have done in Great Britain for about ten years so that these things would not occur, because they should not be. The net result of law reform in Great Britain is that half the jails are closed up.

Another matter to be dealt with is the clarification of some of the statutes, in view of the decisions of the court of appeal regarding "voluntary statements" by prisoners to police, and many other matters such as that. Certainly with the disasters that are going on at level crossings, fires, hit-and-run drivers, road accidents from motor cars, thought should be devoted to this work for a day or more, morning, afternoon and evening to see if parliament cannot do something about it. I had a resolution on it debated every year before the last war.

Another matter is institutions under federal control. No one ever goes inside them. A committee of the House of Commons ought to be appointed to visit these institutions near this city at once to see what is going on, because the staff is headed by those who are just learning from experience, and are appointed with no knowledge of the work and take a year to look things over. Many of them come from other vocations. Some have had no experience and they are installed as heads of the department and deputy heads of the department. All they do is learn by experience. They know nothing about the work at all. We should have some other better system.

Last year a return was brought down in answer to a question of mine which showed that prosecutions laid in the Toronto district in respect of those who have no radio licences were much greater than those in Ottawa or the neighbouring city. As a matter of fact, they were nearly all in Ontario. That may or may not mean anything. A radio licence is

[Mr. Church.]

not worth \$2.50 when one considers the class of radio programs we are getting. It is one of the most mischievous institutions we have in this country; it is just an adjunct of the government of the day.

I could refer to many other matters such as fines for breaches of the wartime prices and trade board regulations and so on. Fines collected in the Toronto district have been very high compared with some of the minor ones in other cities. There should be some uniformity.

Since the lights went out in Europe in 1914 we have had pretty nearly thirty-five years of war and fear. The people have been haunted with fear, restraint and discipline. Fear is filling our cemeteries. We have a tendency to over-organize. We are living in an age of fear. Labour is taught to fear capital; communism is taught to fear free enterprise; Europe fears hunger. The United States of America fears the boom and bust; the world fears the atomic bomb; everyone fears somebody or something, and liberty is nowhere. What we want in Canada today is freedom and less of these restraints and fears that interfere with the liberty of the subject.

One could suggest remedies for some of these controls. One of the worst things we have is the high sales tax. Mr. Fielding said that the six per cent sales tax was the maximum. In some cases it has gone up to twelve and a fraction per cent. I believe it should be reduced to about one-third or one-fourth of that. No doubt revenue is wanted.

Coming back to subsidies, last June I said we should adopt some kind of subsidy for milk, bread and coal up to March 31 next, because I knew then that suffering was coming. Nothing was done about it. I believe that supply and demand and production would be better, because subsidies have to come to an end sooner or later.

There are other matters to which I should like to refer. One is the matter of education and social services. Why should a municipality have to pay taxes for those whom they are compelled to take into their hospitals? Many of them are coming to Canada; they are new arrivals. The hospitals are filled and there is no further hospital accommodation. The federal authority should take some interest in that. The first duty of the government is to look after the health, wealth, peace, happiness and prosperity of the citizens. These are federal matters because they are federal matters in other countries. They are federal matters in the old country. There should have been concurrent jurisdiction on education with the provinces the same as in agriculture and