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Bill 71, an Act to Amend the Criminal Code.
Section 3, amending Section 215, Sub-sections
2,3,4,5, and 6 of the Code.

MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY
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It is not intended by these amendments to change the law that has been in force, or that was thought to have been in force, ever since 1919, when the provisions now embodied in these sub-sections of Section 215 were first enacted by Chapter 16 of the Statutes of that year and inserted in the Code as Section 220a. This Section 220a was passed in 1919 at the request of various agencies throughout Canada engaged in rescue work with children and the provisions embodied in it, and now embodied in sub-sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Section 215 of the Code have, in the meantime, served a most useful purpose. The main purpose for which the provisions were intended and to which they have been put, was the breaking up, in the interests of children, of illicit relations and the re-establishing of the natural family homes, thus avoiding the taking away of children from their parents and making them wards of the Children's Aid Societies under the various Provincial Children's Protection Acts, as would otherwise have been necessary. It will be observed that, in every case coming within the provisions in question, whether as they now stand or as proposed to be amended, the Children's Aid Societies have power, under Provincial legislation, to take the children away from the evil surroundings and to have them committed as wards and placed in foster homes. It is realized, however, that wherever possible, it is very much better that children should remain with their parents, and therefore the purpose for which the provisions now in question were desired was to avoid the necessity of taking children away from their natural parents.

When the legislation was first adopted in 1919, the necessity for it was pressed upon the social agencies by reason of the fact that in numerous cases scoundrels were taking up their residence with the wives of soldiers absent at the Front, and living on the money that was being paid them from the soldiers' wages. Quite apart, however, from this particular situation that arose during the war, you may be surprised to know that it is not

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