

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—A group of young people may get hold of some dramatic work, and be entirely ignorant of it being registered, and use it for some church festival; they will then come within the pale of the criminal law.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They are not likely to be proceeded against.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend opposite would make every act in life a criminal act. We would return to the days of the Mayflower.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Crime is increasing in Canada, owing to the laxity of our criminal code. Let me give you some statistics. In the last ten years, the ratio of crime per thousand of population has risen: In Manitoba, from 5.15 per cent up to 22 per cent; in British Columbia, from 12 to 18 per cent.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—You are trying to make this a crime.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—This will increase the proportion.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Taking all the provinces, the proportion has arisen from 6.23 to 11.3 per thousand.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—If an amateur corps should reproduce a dramatic work in a private house, or in any place where they charge admission fees for charitable purposes, it is made a crime by this clause.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Innocent people are never prosecuted.

Hon. Mr. De BOUCHERVILLE—The clause says unless he acted innocently. People might take up a dramatic composition, not knowing it was registered, and play it, and it would be for them to show that they were perfectly innocent.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I move that the clause be struck out.

The motion to strike out the clause was adopted.

On clause (544a),

By inserting immediately after section 544 the following section:—

"544A. Upon the written request of the owner or person in charge of any cattle so carried, which written request shall be separate and apart from any printed or other bill

The SPEAKER.

of lading of other railroad or shipping form, the time of confinement of such cattle may be extended to thirty-six hours where such cattle are carried on cars fitted with the necessary appliances and are, during such time, fed and watered without being unloaded."

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—The present period is eight and twenty hours on our side of the line, but thirty-six on the American side of the line.

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—I do not propose to have this struck out, but humane societies do not like it. Cattle carried on trains a long time without water deteriorate very much. I have seen a great many come to St. John in the winter time, and where they have been a long time on the route, through any accident, confined in the car and unable to get water, or whether they are unable to get water or not, they are in a very bad condition. This amendment to the Act, I understand, is asked for by the people who are shipping the cattle, and by the railroads. Of course it is a very awkward thing to detrain the cattle and give them a rest, and there is a dislike to it. I do not, however, ask to have the clause stricken out. One very great difficulty is in carrying out the provisions of the law. It is provided that these cattle should be carried in a particular way, in cars fitted with certain conveniences; but the cars are rarely fitted up with those conveniences, and there is no way to enforce it. However, let it go.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I notice this extension to thirty-six hours is upon the consideration that the cattle are carried on cars fitted with necessary appliances, and are, during such time, fed and watered.

The clause was adopted.

On section 583.

Section 583.—By repealing paragraph (e) thereof and substituting the following paragraph:—

"(e) two hundred and sixty-three, murder; two hundred and sixty-five, threat to murder; two hundred and sixty-six, conspiracy to murder; two hundred and sixty-seven, accessory after the fact to murder; two hundred and sixty-eight, manslaughter: or,"

Hon. Mr. POWER—It means this. Section (582) of the code says:

"That every court of general or quarter sessions of the peace when presided over by a superior court judge or a county or district