

desirable that this Bill should become law, and why, in my opinion, it would not lead to an increase in the number of divorces, but on the contrary would have a tendency to decrease the number. I need not repeat these reasons.

If the other House rejects this Bill after consideration, as they have a right to do, then the members on this side of the House will ask the Commons to bear one-half of the petitions for divorce which may reach Parliament. In the event of the other Chamber not dealing with this Divorce Bill, I am in a position to state that the members on this side of the House will refuse to serve on the Divorce Committee, with this exception, that they will, as formerly, hear any petitions that come to the Senate from the province of Quebec.

This is in furtherance of the declared intention of this Chamber not to interfere with the question of divorce so far as it relates to the province of Quebec, as stated and explained on the first introduction of the Bill in this Chamber. Excluding Quebec, the only provinces without a Divorce Court are Ontario and Prince Edward Island; so that this statement will be of most interest to the people of these two provinces.

That, I am satisfied, is the almost unanimous opinion of this side of the House. There was no formal meeting to discuss the matter, but I have discussed it with members of the Committee and with as many members of the House as I could see, and that is the position that the great majority of them take.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, since we have heard the statement of the honourable leader on the other side as to the stand which members of the Senate for whom he speaks may take next Session, I feel that the Senate and the public have not sufficiently appreciated the importance and the most disagreeable character of the work which has fallen upon the group of Senators who undertook to sit in the Divorce Committee. While we have all done our share in dealing with questions that have come before us, without attracting the notice of the outside public, the nine members whom we appointed to the Divorce Committee have been obliged to work day in and day out, without any adjournment, and without the advantage of enjoying the fresh air during certain hours of the day. Their conduct has been most commendable, and I desire to thank them for it.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Honourable gentlemen, I would like to add just a word on this subject. The honourable gentleman has not quite touched on what is, after all, a most serious

fact to the members who serve on the Divorce Committee. Divorce proceedings are really judicial proceedings. In my time attendance on that Committee was quite a burden, in this way, that the work of the Committee, the calling of witnesses who are brought here, must go on practically at all hazards, using that phrase reasonably; therefore that work interferes with the other duties of the Senate. The men who serve on the Divorce Committee are precluded from attending other Committees, and giving consideration to the general legislation of the House. I know that that fact is regarded by members of the Committee as probably the most onerous part of it. I do not think they complain of doing the work that is done; but they cannot be in two or three places at the same time, and hence a large number of useful men are prevented from dealing with the general legislative subjects that come before us, by having their time consumed in the Divorce Committee. That was one of the reasons why I asked the late Sir James Lougheed to leave me off the Divorce Committee, because I had no time to deal with other questions.

I wish also to say that, while in my time divorce work was burdensome, it is now five times as bad, because for every divorce case we had then we now have at least five, probably six. With some knowledge of the matter, more than that of the men who have not served on that Committee, I wish to express my gratitude to those who have dealt with the divorces. They have done their work well and faithfully, and I think they deserve the thanks of this House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: In order to indicate the nature of that work, it occurred to me that if there were any possibility, under the rules or the constitution of the Senate of transferring the inquiry, the taking of evidence, and the report, to some of the courts of those three provinces that have no regular divorce courts, we would thus place the labour where it belongs—in the hands of properly constituted tribunals.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: That would give you a divorce court.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Call it whatever you like.

PARLIAMENT GROUNDS

TRAFFIC REGULATION

Hon. Mr. TANNER: Honourable gentlemen, before the House adjourns, I think it would be a very proper thing for someone to express appreciation—and I am doing it so