

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Halifax)—The leader of the government has taken a charitable and humane view of this question, and I am entirely opposed to the postponement of the Bill. The sooner it goes into operation the better. While it may not be up to what we would wish, yet on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread we should accept it. I have read recently the opinion of a very eminent physician in London, who said that in a very short time there would be very little medicine used, that all that is required to prolong life, is pure air, simple diet, and plenty of exercise. I am of that opinion myself, and have followed the prescription to a large extent, and attribute my present good health and sound condition to having done so. The plea is used that the country merchants may have too much stock on hand. That will not hold water, because in these days of quick transportation you can order your goods and get them on very short notice, and it is unnecessary to keep a large stock on hand. In the old times, when we had to procure sufficient stocks in the fall to last until the following spring, it was different. The object of the Bill is a humane one, and the sooner it goes into operation the better.

Hon. Mr. COX—If I understand the hon. Secretary of State right, this Bill does not go into effect until proclaimed by order in council. Does not that give all necessary protection, both to the dealer and the public? It gives the Governor in Council an opportunity to carefully consider those questions on which few of us are in a position to vote intelligently here. I do not know which way to vote, and the proper thing is to let the Bill pass, and it will only go into effect by proclamation. If matters are in the position stated on both sides, the proclamation might not be issued until next session of parliament, and persons interested in the manufacture and sale of drugs would have an opportunity to make their representations to the Governor in Council. Altogether it would enable us in the meantime to arrive at an intelligent decision as to what is right to do, and I would support that view of it.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—This Bill is a monument of sublime ignorance. As the hon. Secretary of State has said, it puts the most powerful poisons and drugs known, all helter skelter together, and does not say how they are to be used. It makes a doctor, an analyst and a toxicologist of the Minister of Inland Revenue. How is the minister to know what is a dose for a child or for a man, or for a woman, and what would be the effects of it? The minister was never made who would know all that is involved in this Bill. I would suggest that every one of these drugs mentioned in the schedule be thrown out. They are all bad. Here is the way this works: Suppose I want to put strychnine, morphine or cocaine or any other drug into a medicine, and such drugs can only be used in very small quantities, what have I to do? I have to send the name of that medicine and a statement of the ingredients to the minister, and the minister is supposed to look at the formula and recommend what is to be done. He gives permission then for the bottling of that preparation. In administering drugs, the quantities should vary with the age and physical condition of the patient. What would be a perfectly safe dose for a boy or girl would be fatal for an infant. No one possessed of any knowledge of medicine dreams of giving morphine or opium or any drug of the kind, to a child. The man who does that is striking at human life. The medical profession is not, as one might imagine from some of the speeches we have heard here, a body of men banded together for the purpose of using recklessly dangerous agents, regardless of their effect on the people. The physician must be and is a most particular man, by the rules of his profession, and he takes a solemn obligation the day he graduates that he will do everything in his power to uphold the honour of his profession. No one will dare to say that the physician is a man devoid of conscience, or of the qualities which adorn humanity. If you want to find virtues of the highest order, you can find them equally as well in the medical profession—and probably more than in the clerical. I am not trying to make any ad captandum speech. I looked through