

to four separate clauses. The first provides that Sunday newspapers shall not be issued; the second relates to the opening and closing of the Dominion canals; the third pertains to railway traffic, and the fourth also to railway traffic—that portion of it connected with excursions. Now, these are all matters, with the possible exception of Sunday newspapers, that come exclusively within the jurisdiction of this Parliament, and that would be ultra vires of any provincial Parliament in the Dominion.

And, with regard to the Sunday newspapers, while the provincial legislatures might act upon this question, I hold that it is more desirable that it should be acted upon by the central Parliament. The Sunday newspaper is an evil that confines its baleful operations to no locality, to no city, to no state, but spreads itself over the nation. And, inasmuch as the Dominion Parliament has charge of questions pertaining to the importation of literature, to the transmission of literature through the mails, of copyright and other things having to do with kindred matters, I have always contended that this was the proper source of authority from which legislation should proceed with reference to the Sunday newspaper. And I was borne out in this position by the eminent jurist and statesman, who once led the Government in this House, Sir John Thompson. That eminent gentleman was a supporter of the first two clauses of this Bill. He voted for them, and gave me his active assistance and sympathy in prosecuting this measure, and securing its passage through the House. Two sections of the Bill actually did pass the House of Commons, but were lost in the Senate. The rise of the Sunday newspaper in the United States and the present condition of affairs as affected by the Sunday newspaper there is a matter of very great interest indeed. During the war of the rebellion, one or two newspapers published Sunday editions, one of them being the New York "Tribune." After that edition had been continued for three or four months, it was stopped; and, in an editorial, Horace Greeley stated, as his reason for discontinuing it, that experience had proven to him that it was a step in the wrong direction—that he was entitled, that the compositors in his office and all the men connected with his establishment were entitled to Sunday rest, and he clearly foresaw that to persist in the publication of the Sunday newspaper would be to let loose in the United States a social demon. The Sunday newspaper was afterward resuscitated. At first it had to struggle along and not many were issued. But they received the support of the people, and, one after another, newspaper establishments were swept into this vortex of Sunday publication, because they were placed at a disadvantage with their rivals, who had Sunday editions, unless they followed their ex-

ample. To-day there are 700 daily newspapers published in the United States on Sunday. Now, these newspapers have had their effect upon the newspaper literature of the United States.

When I ask the question: Has the newspaper press of the United States deteriorated? Every man conversant with the subject will say unhesitatingly, Yes, it has deteriorated. It does not begin to occupy the moral standard or the literary standard that it did occupy in that country before the introduction of the Sunday newspaper. The Sunday newspaper press, its influence upon the social life of the country, its influence upon the moral life of the country, is debasing and disastrous. It begets at the very best a trivial literary taste, and it banishes solid reading. It publishes a Sunday edition of twenty, thirty or forty pages, mostly gossip and scandal, material which ought never to go into the family circle. It banishes religious reading, it banishes solid literature of all kinds, and is an unmitigated literary curse, social curse and religious curse in the United States. The natural attitude of the Sunday newspaper upon all moral questions is hostile, or upon all religious questions at least. It is a violation of God's command, and it naturally scorns at the idea of obedience to those commands. It naturally becomes the enemy of all influences that are calculated to secure in the nation regard to or respect for those religious commands which are so essential to the well-being of the nation and to the continuance of the national life. The natural outcome of the Sunday newspaper evil is what is known in the United States as the foul press, a class of newspapers that are unfit to read. At last the nation is beginning to wake up; and reading-room managers are banishing from their reading-rooms this class of newspapers. The other day the New York "World" and the New York "Journal" were denied admission into the reading-room of Newark, New Jersey, and into the reading-rooms of other cities. They are simply unfit to read. They are unfit to be placed before men, much less to take into families. The natural outcome of entering upon the downward grade introduced by the Sunday newspaper is this foul press, this bestial press, which is the name by which you may characterize a very large percentage of the newspapers of the United States. This is telling most disastrously day after day upon public life, upon society, upon public morals, and is sapping the foundations of national prosperity and strength in that country, sapping public virtue, and rendering the outlook as to the future of that country most dubious and pessimistic. Well, Mr. Speaker, this Bill proposes that we shall avoid the introduction of this peculiarly characteristic American institution, that we shall prohibit the publication and sale of Sunday newspapers