

## IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO CRIMINAL CODE.

Considerable discussion centred round the bill of the Minister of Justice to amend the Criminal Code. Among the amendments provided in the bill was a provision suggested by Mr. McCraney, of Saskatoon, to the effect that moneys paid by the purchaser of real estate should be used by the vendor toward the securing of the title to the land, and should be held in trust for the purchaser until such title was obtained. The bill of Mr. McCraney made it a criminal offence to use such money for any other purpose until the title had been obtained. This amendment to the criminal code met with strong objection from several members of the House, who claimed that a better provision would be some measure to protect unwary purchasers from being duped. Mr. Martin, of Regina, thought that with the passing of the real estate boom the need for such legislation had been minimized. The provision was consequently struck out with the understanding that if desirable it could be dealt with in another bill this session.

A further section providing that any person who sells defective stores to the militia department or the naval service department shall be liable to imprisonment for two years, or a fine of \$5,000, or to both fine and imprisonment, which was the subject of a bill by Mr. Sinclair, of Guysboro, met with no opposition by the House, and was passed. The bill provides that all officials of any corporation who have been cognizant of the fraud shall be responsible, and that the firm shall not be any longer eligible to contracts from the Government.

The new bill further provides for the bringing under the criminal code such cases as that of Nerlich of Toronto, and enacts that there shall be a penalty or fine, and imprisonment for anyone who assists an alien enemy to leave the country.

A further amendment provides for a term of twelve months' imprisonment for the inmates of disorderly houses. The minister explained in this connection that the present term was two months, but that it was desirable that a longer term should be provided for reformatory purposes.

Morning and Saturday sittings will be commenced next week. The Prime Minister announced at the opening of the House that no more legislation of a contentious character would be brought down by the Government. There was a general desire, he said, to expedite the session. Prorogation is expected before Easter.