

35. Then, it is the general public that would be the chief sufferers, because they would be twelve hours behind in their information?—A certain proportion of the news would undoubtedly be twelve hours late every day in publication.

36. And that would be obviated, I understood you to say, if Australia were to join with us in passing a similar measure?—Yes, we should be exactly as we are now.

37. But until that happened we should be at a disadvantage?—Yes. We should be 2 hours 35 minutes behind, instead of 1 hour 35 minutes.

38. *Mr. Sidey.*] Have you considered the matter of private individuals cabling between here and Australia during business hours?—I have not; but, of course, it would affect them very materially, I should say, when there was some urgent business toward. It might make a serious difference to business men.

39. *The Chairman.*] In the case of a cable sent from here to Australia and requiring a reply, would it not prevent that reply from being received during the same day, probably?—That would entirely depend upon the hour at which the message was sent originally.

40. It would leave them one hour less to reply in?—Yes, and might make it impossible for them to reply in time. Supposing that a man telegraphed from Sydney at 12 o'clock in the day about something that had to be done before 2 o'clock Sydney time, he could not get an answer. I had not considered that matter, but, of course, it must affect private persons to some extent where urgency is in question.

GEORGE VERNON HUDSON, Civil Servant, Wellington, examined. (No. 2.)

*The Chairman:* Will you make a statement, Mr. Hudson?

*Witness:* I should like to make a few remarks. Perhaps the first thing I should do is to allude to some of the objections that Mr. Attack has raised. With all due respect to the newspapers, it seems to me that the Press is a very small part of the community, taking all the people into consideration. This scheme of putting the clock on an hour in summer is intended to benefit the great mass of the community. Mr. G. M. Thomson, in speaking on the Bill, asked, why not alter the habits of the people instead of altering the clock? This is a more reasonable objection. The reply is that such an alteration in habits would be wholly impracticable, as it would involve endless adjustment throughout the whole of society, which could never be carried out in all its detail. Meal-times, arrivals and departures of trains, steamers, &c., opening of places of business, theatres, &c., would all have to be simultaneously altered, whereas, by moving the hands of the clock in the middle of the night, all these adjustments could be effected quite automatically. There would be no confusion. In our office we were very kindly allowed by the Government to come down at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning and leave at noon. The concession was very much appreciated, but at the same time its benefit is only very limited, because the men cannot get their meal-times and their trains and boats altered to suit the change, so that even in a very small office the alteration of habits is not feasible. The alteration of the clock moves the whole of the proceedings of the day one hour ahead, and enables people to get the daylight at the end of the day instead of at the beginning, when they cannot make use of it. If they do want to make use of it in the mornings they have to get up very early, and become too tired to do their work later on in the day. Again, visitors often arrive in the evening and prevent early risers from going to bed, and thus they cannot get their proper rest. By altering the clock the whole community gets one hour's extra daylight at the end of the day for any purpose required. The whole community gets the benefit, and it is done quite automatically. Then, another objection has been urged—as to the alteration in the clock tending to lengthen the hours of labour. That is already dealt with by legislation. It would be just as reasonable to say that because of the extra daylight the hours of labour are at present longer in summer than in winter. As a matter of fact they are not. The altering of the clock would not affect the hours of labour. Then, Mr. G. M. Thomson said it was a case of deluding ourselves. Well, we are always deluding ourselves. 11 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich is our time for all New Zealand. In reality it is not the time for the East Cape or Queenstown, but only for a point in the Lyttelton tunnel. So nearly everybody in New Zealand is deluding himself even to the extent of thirty minutes in some places. The argument as to our deluding ourselves is really no argument at all. Constant adjustments of time have to be made by astronomers. The mean solar time that we use does not exist in nature; it is only made for convenience. If by effecting the alteration contemplated in the Bill we can contribute to the convenience of the vast majority, there is no reason why we should not make it. There is nothing in nature to prevent our doing it. We do not go by the sun for time. If we did we should have to alter the clocks every two or three days. We use mean time, not solar time. So the argument against the so-called interference with the heavenly bodies, and deluding ourselves, is altogether fallacious. There is a certain section of the community that is emphatically against the proposal, and that is the lighting companies. It would be dead loss to them. The money taken out of their pockets by the saving of artificial light will, however, go into the pockets of the community at large. The scheme will also be very hard on the milkman, because he will have to get up in the dark considerably longer in the year than he does at present. It will be of immense benefit to the school-children. By it they would have an extra hour's play in daylight. All the clerks in offices, factory hands, shop people, servant-girls, &c., will get the extra hour's daylight for recreation all through the summer, and for most of the time they would have any amount of spare daylight in the morning as well. When the mornings draw in in the autumn the present time would be reverted to. The present arrangement is perfect as regards the winter, but is very defective as regards the summer. Bowlers, cricketers, yachtsmen, anglers, &c.—all these men will have one hour extra for their recreations in the evening. This scheme will be bad for the doctors, because the hour's extra sunshine and fresh air will probably take away some of their work. For the great mass of the