

if it was practicable. The item was passed without further comment.

Discrimination in Gratuities.

The House in Committee of Supply passed most of the supplementary estimates. When the item of gratuities was reached, Mr. Allan Studholme, Labor member for Hamilton, made an unavailing protest against what he characterized as "making fish of one and flesh of another." He wanted to know why one man, who was discharged after twenty-five years of faithful service and with a commendation from the Superintendent of his department, should be granted no gratuity, while another whose services were dispensed with obtained one. The Premier explained that a person who was discharged was never given a gratuity. Hon. Col. Matheson referred to the practice of the former Government as the origin of the present system. Hon. Mr. Hanna said that there had been a statute passed providing that under no conditions would persons entering the civil service after a certain date receive gratuities. The item, which totalled \$8,900, was passed, in spite of Mr. Studholme's protest that it was "not a square deal."

Railways Under Two Bills.

Second reading was given to the bill of Hon. Col. Hendrie, to facilitate interswitching and exchange of freight between railways which come under the jurisdiction of different boards, one under the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners and the other under the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. Col. Hendrie's attention having been directed to the need of some such enactment because of the condition of affairs at Preston, suggested to Chairman Leitch of the Ontario Board that he meet Hon. Mr. Mabee, Chairman of the Dominion Commission, to arrive at a modus vivendi. In the Dominion House a similar bill to Col. Hendrie's will be introduced during the present session, on which conditions the Ontario bill will become law.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane's bill confirming an agreement respecting the Ontario & Minnesota Power Company was given its second reading.

Wives May Get More.

Hon. Mr. Foy explained the provisions of his bill respecting maintenance of wives deserted by their husbands, pointing out that it was intended to provide relief for women in circumstances which would prevent them from seeking it in ordinary courts of law. The allowance to be paid to a deserted wife was suggested to be not more than \$5 per week, but this was amended on the suggestion of Mr. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland) to allow a sum not exceeding \$10 a week.

Boilers and Engines Exempt.

Mr. A. A. Mahaffy (Muskoka) obtained the second reading of his bill to amend the assessment act by specifying that boilers and engines, as parts of fixed machinery, are to be exempt from taxation. The act as worded exempts certain fixed machinery, and assessors generally omit boilers and engines from their category, though some assess them, but Judges on appeal sometimes upset the assessors' action. The bill is to remove this ambiguity.

Mr. W. H. Hoyle, member for North Ontario, introduced a bill to amend the municipal act. The principal clause of the bill relates to bridges, and defines as a country bridge one of eighty feet or over, in addition to ten feet at each end for approaches.