

Mr. PUGSLEY: Will the hon. gentleman explain?

Mr. DOHERTY: There are five amendments sought to be made by this Bill. They concern matters which are considered to be of some urgency and importance. The effect of the first section is to amend the existing section 4 of the Canada Evidence Act, so as to make the evidence of a wife admissible against the husband in prosecutions for non-support. The second section of the Bill proposes to amend section 213 of the Criminal Code, so as to include within its provisions those enactments making it a criminal offence to have illicit connection on the part of an employer, or, generally speaking, of a person in a position of authority over the victim or the participant in the illicit connection. The amendment consists in including another class of persons within that class of people the step-parent, foster parent or guardian who has illicit connection with his step-child, foster child, or ward. The third section proposes to amend the definition of a common bawdy house, so as to make it include a place where acts of indecency are committed, or a place to which people ordinarily resort for the purpose of indulging in such acts of indecency. Our attention has been called to a certain class of establishment, which is announced under guise of what might be a perfectly legitimate business or treatment, but which, according to the police information, is really used for acts of indecency. The fourth section amends a provision which was made, I think, a year or two ago constituting it an offence for a trader who has become insolvent to have failed to keep regular books of account. That is already the law, but in its interpretation the purpose was defeated, because there was ambiguity in the terms with reference to the period of time within which such failure must have taken place. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to correct that ambiguity. The last section proposes to amend the present tariff of constables' fees for services rendered in connection with criminal prosecutions. This is in response to a very general request, and the proposition has been submitted to the provincial governments which are also interested in it, and if my information is correct with regard to the most of them, if not all of them, it meets with no objection.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

[Mr. Doherty.]

QUESTIONS.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by asterisks.)

MAJOR BARTLETT.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES:

1. Is Major Bartlett, of Charlottetown, P.E.I., now employed, or has he been employed by the Government or the Militia Department?
2. If so, how long has he been so employed and what remuneration has he received or is he receiving for his services?

Sir EDWARD KEMP:

1. Yes, as officer in charge of supplies, transport and barracks at Charlottetown.
2. Since January 1, 1916. He is receiving the pay of his rank.

CAPT. KENNETH C. MACPHERSON.

Mr. PROULX:

1. Is Captain Kenneth C. Macpherson attached to military headquarters at Ottawa?
2. If so, what are his duties and pay?
3. Up to the outbreak of war did Captain Kenneth C. Macpherson conduct a real estate business at Ottawa or elsewhere?
4. Did he perform active service in France or Flanders?
5. If not, in what capacity or rank did he go to England and why did he return?

Sir EDWARD KEMP:

1. Yes.
2. An assistant to the Assistant Paymaster General. \$6.25 per diem.
3. Yes, in Ottawa.
4. Yes.
5. Answered by No. 4.

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN.

Mr. KNOWLES:

1. In what cities of the Dominion does the Post Office Department make use of the street cars for the transportation of letter carriers?
2. How many letter carriers in each city are privileged to have the use of street cars?
3. What is the price paid by the department per carrier in the several cities for such transportation?
4. From what basis is the amount paid by the department to the several street car companies derived?
5. On what dates do the present agreements with the street car companies in each city cease?

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—RATES ON COAL.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. D. D. MCKENZIE (North Cape Breton): I call the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Hon. Mr. Cochran) to a letter which I received from the