

could be spent to greater advantage at the present time.

Mr. MARTIN: Does the minister intend to replace Mr. McDonald and Mr. Hamilton by other officers?

Mr. McCURDY: The two officers named by my hon. friend from Halifax are recommended by the chief engineer for retirement and their places will not be filled.

Mr. MARTIN: Will they receive a gratuity?

Mr. McCURDY: I think both of those officers have been in the service for less than ten years, and therefore would be entitled to a gratuity only.

Mr. MARTIN: I am pleased indeed that the hon. member for Cape Breton had nothing worse to say of Mr. Dodwell than that he was a little older perhaps than one in his position ought to be. He is not very much older than either the hon. gentleman or myself, and I think it will be found that he has been the right man in the right place.

Mr. McKENZIE: I said nothing about Mr. Dodwell.

Mr. MARTIN: I know you did not.

Mr. McKENZIE: Nothing at all. I simply asked Mr. Dodwell's age. What has the hon. member for Halifax to say about that? Did I not, Mr. Chairman, have a perfect right to ask the age of a man who was about to be retired? Yet the hon. member for Halifax must have a jibe at me as if I had said something very bad about Mr. Dodwell. I have known him for the last twenty-five years, and he is a capable man; but when it comes to a preference as between officers, we 10 p.m. in this House have a perfect right to know the equitable basis upon which they are dealt with, and the question of age is one of the things to be inquired into. I do not know why the member for Halifax should remark that he was very glad I had nothing else to say about Mr. Dodwell. I did not try to say anything else, and I do not understand the insinuation.

Mr. MARTIN: I am quite aware that the hon. gentleman did not say anything else against Mr. Dodwell, and I am sure, as I said before, that Mr. Dodwell is a very efficient officer. But the hon. member for Cape Breton also intimated that Mr. McKean was dismissed on account of politics. Now, here are these two gentle-

[Mr. McCurdy.]

men and I am asking the minister whether they are to receive a gratuity. They are not engineers, but they are very estimable men.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): The minister doubted the correctness of my statement that very little had been spent by his predecessors in office in 1911 in eastern Nova Scotia, and he referred to expenditure at the steel works, but—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steele): Both sides of the House are aware that this discussion has been out of order for some time. The item under consideration is \$683,510 for civil government, and I would ask hon. members to confine their remarks thereto.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I have no desire to prolong the discussion but I should like to say that I do not think the minister has any right to bring up the case of a contract with the Nova Scotia Steel Works to build a ship as an instance of expenditure on public works.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steele): Order. Shall the item carry?

Item agreed to.

Rents, repairs, furniture, heating, etc., \$4,935,500.

Mr. FIELDING: Would it not be more convenient to take this item by item?

Mr. McCURDY: I move that the committee consider Estimate No. 139 item by item.

Motion agreed to.

Elevator attendants, \$70,000.

Mr. CHISHOLM: Where is that, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. McCURDY: This covers the elevator attendants in all the public buildings at Ottawa, including the House of Commons.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I would like to say that we have a very obliging and efficient staff of elevator men in the House of Commons building and personally I have great pleasure in voting their pay.

Item agreed to.

Lighting, including roads and bridges, \$90,000.

Mr. CHISHOLM: What does this include?

Mr. McCURDY: Lighting of buildings, by the Ottawa Electric, \$43,800; by the Hydro Electric, \$12,543; Parliament buildings, \$4,500; Grand Trunk Railway, for