

(Mr. Belcourt). He made the statement that no person could live in Ottawa on \$600 a year. There are 312 working days in the year, and \$1.50 a day would be \$468. There are plenty of people living in Ottawa to-day on \$1.50 a day.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 120) to incorporate the Ottawa, Brockville and St. Lawrence Railway Company.—(Mr. Frost.)

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 172) respecting the Canada Mining and Metallurgical Company (Limited).—(Mr. Casey.)

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 156) to amend the Civil Service Act.

(In the Committee.)

On section 2,

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Is there any objection to put the word 'only' in there, so as to make it read 'and only after.'

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). It does not strengthen the meaning of it. It cannot be done before.

Mr. FOSTER. But it is done before, and you will need all the stiffening you can.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). There is no objection to that.

On section 7,

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). I would like to ask the minister why a graduate of the military college should be given a preference over others having the full qualifications to do the work?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). It applies not merely to graduates of the military college, but to graduates of any university. The idea is that in special circumstances we may give a little recognition to a man who has taken the trouble to qualify himself by a college education. If a man has spent years taking a course of instruction at one of our higher institutions of learning, it is not a fault that we should give special recognition to that fact.

Mr. CLANCY. I deny that such a distinction should be made in the civil service of Canada, which belongs to men who, in many cases, are unable, owing to their position in

Mr. TAYLOR.

life, to secure a college education, while well able to perform the duties required in the service. A university degree does not give a man any special advantages for those duties. I will venture to say that, generally speaking, there is not a particle of work done in the service that might not be done efficiently by persons unable to take such a degree. There is no doubt about that.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is much doubt about it.

Mr. CLANCY. While university graduates should be encouraged to come into the service, I do not see why a preference should be given to them, thus placing at a disadvantage other young men who may be quite as bright, if not more capable. The fact that a man has passed through and taken a degree in any of our universities is no measure of his qualification to be a good accountant.

Mr. MONTAGUE. A good many of them do not know anything about accounts.

Mr. CLANCY. As my hon. friend says, a good many of them do not know anything about accounts. I say it is unfair to give them a preference over other men who can do the work as efficiently and, in some cases, more efficiently. The special training is no argument that the work will be better done.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think that we may safely lay it down as a rule, that even if a man is to be a hod carrier, a college education will make him a better hod carrier. I speak feelingly on this subject as one who has not enjoyed all the advantages of that higher education. I do not hesitate to say that in any walk of life a man may be engaged, he is all the better for having enjoyed a university training. That training does not belong exclusively to the sons of wealthy men. Our educational institutions in every province are, fortunately, in such a condition that they can afford to the sons of poor men the advantage of university training almost equally with the children of wealthy men. When the hon. gentleman says that this is unfair to some one else, I may say it is unfair to the son of a poor man, who has struggled hard to obtain a university education, that in the public service of Canada there should be no recognition of that struggle.

Mr. FOSTER. Like the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) I may be taking the unpopular side, but I do not believe a word of what the Finance Minister has said. It sounds well, but I do not believe it can stand the test, and I am speaking now in the face of one of our university men from the maritime provinces. Take two men who have commenced the struggle of life at the same time. The circumstances of the one have enabled him to take a collegiate course, but the other has had to content