

which are not sufficiently covered by the Revised Statutes. The first subject dealt with is that of salaries. At present the rule is that salaries may be fixed by the Governor in Council, as provided in the 33rd Section of the Act. Now it is proposed by this Bill to make a more specific and settled rule with regard to the salaries of officers. It is proposed to fix a minimum salary for each officer in each penitentiary, these salaries being graded according to the importance of the penitentiary, the number of prisoners, and so on; and also to establish a maximum salary. An officer who performs his duties satisfactorily, will be entitled to a regular rate of progress and the department will not be troubled with constant applications for increase of salary, as they are now. The next clause applies to gratuities. It appears that gratuities are now given to persons leaving the service, who have certain claims for services performed. It is proposed to put that on record as the law of the country; at present it is not in a satisfactory shape. Another subject is that of perquisites, which has attracted the attention of the Government. It has been found in some respects to be open to abuse; in fact, it is objectionable in principle. This Bill proposes to do away with the practice altogether, except the residences of officers, or being allowed to have convicts to cultivate their gardens, may be considered perquisites. This and another clause providing regulations for carrying out the law, are really the only subject matters dealt with by this Bill.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read the second time.

SICK AND DISTRESSED MARINERS' BILL.

SECOND READING POSTPONED.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the second reading of Bill (76), "An Act to amend the Act respecting sick and distressed mariners."

He said: With regard to this Bill there was some little informal discussion yesterday as to whether it should be read or not before it was printed. It is not yet

printed. In any case there were some statements made with regard to it yesterday which I have not been able to verify. However, it is a very short bill, only four lines, and we might read it the second time now, and I will be better able to discuss the question to-morrow. I am informed that the object of the Bill is really to correct an error in the revised statutes, and that the law, before the enactment of these revised statutes, was what it is supposed to be made by this Act. That I have not verified, and an hon. gentleman has stated something to me which causes me to doubt it, but between now and to-morrow there will be plenty of time to look into the matter.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I am opposed to the second reading to-day, because I am opposed to the principle of this Bill. I think the law as it stands now in the revised statutes is correct.

HON. MR. SCOTT—No change was made in the Bill in the House of Commons.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The Bill consists of only four lines it is true, but they contain a very important principle.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not wish to press the second reading now; I only want to get the business of the House forwarded.

HON. MR. DICKEY—It seems to me there is no objection to the principle, and if there is any change to be made in the Bill we can deal with that in committee. At this stage of the session I do not see why we should delay over the second reading of the Bill.

HON. MR. CARVELL—I think we had better let the Bill stand over, because although it consists of only four lines, it is a most important measure if the information I have received is correct. The idea is that foreign fishing vessels shall be exempted from paying hospital dues to the end that sick or disabled members of their crews should be excluded from the hospitals. If that is the object of the Bill I think that no such legislation should be had.

HON. MR. ABBOTT.