

A man is no longer permitted to "assault and beat his wife or any other female" if this results in actual bodily harm. If he does so he is liable to be whipped as well as imprisoned. The imprisonment, however, is not to be for so long a period if a man beats a woman as if he beats a man, and, moreover, the clause is added to the section which deals with indecent assault. We fear that magistrates will find a difficulty in inflicting the proper penalty. That some measure is required is not doubted, for the thugs which have appeared in Montreal, Hamilton and other places require severe treatment. We hardly think, however, that the proposed legislation will meet the case.

Mr. Macdonell (South Toronto) would have election day a public holiday, and would also repeal the provision requiring a deposit of \$200 at the nomination of a candidate.

Compensation to the extent of \$25 is now made for the loss of a registered domestic article, similarly to the existing provisions respecting an article from a foreign country lost in Canada.

The revelations in the Marine enquiry has produced a bill, by the Minister of Justice, entitled "The Secret Commissions Act," which makes it an offence, punishable by fine or imprisonment, to accept any gift or consideration as a reward for doing, or forbearing to do, any act relating to his principal's business, or to offer a reward to an agent, or to make a false statement to an agent which is intended to mislead his principal.

The interests of labour are not neglected. There are in the House two strong advocates for labour. One of these would prevent labourers in the employ of contractors with the Government from working more than eight hours a day. This subject has a familiar sound. The other member has proposed legislation which is, perhaps, more in the interests of the public even than in the interests of labour. His bill would reduce the hours of duty of operators, train despatchers and others who have to do with train movements, so that they will not have to work more than eight hours in any twenty-four, except in cases of emergency. This bill is a very important one, for it cannot be denied that many accidents have been caused through the neglect of operators who have become fatigued by too long hours of duty.