

posed to be amended and who has not elected to accept compensation under the said Act as aforesaid, shall nevertheless be entitled to compensation under the said Act as though such employee had so elected; and further that any compensation or costs awarded under the said Act be paid by the Minister of Finance out of any unappropriated moneys in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada, or the Minister of Finance may from time to time take such amount of money as may be authorized by the Governor in Council from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and deposit such money with the Board, officers, authority or court authorized by the law of any province to determine compensation cases, from which deposit such Board, officers, authority or court may pay any compensation and costs awarded under the provisions of the said Act; and in any province where the general administration expenses of maintaining such Board, officers or other authority or court are paid by the province or by contributions from employers, or by both, the Minister of Finance may pay out of any unappropriated money in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada such portion of such expenses as is fair and reasonable and is authorized by the Governor in Council.—*The Minister of Railways and Canals.*

Mr. REID: I think it is necessary to make a few explanations. Last session I presented to Parliament a Bill, which was passed, entitled, "an Act to provide Compensation where employees of His Majesty are killed or suffer injuries while performing their duty," in order to bring the Canadian Government Railway employees under the Compensation Acts of the several provinces throughout Canada. It applied to all Government employees, but it was passed at the request of the employees of the Government Railways. I consulted with the representatives of the Provident Fund of the Intercolonial Railway employees, and before the Bill passed a representative of the employees pronounced the opinion that it protected those who were receiving benefits under the Provident Fund Act. I stated in the House at the time that if the Act did not work out satisfactorily to those who were receiving benefits under the Provident Fund, we would amend it. Sub-section 4, of section 1, of the Bill passed last year does not work out in practice. The employees do not elect before injury, and therefore cannot claim under the Compensation Acts, nor can their dependents. The object of the present amendment is to enable a man to elect after injury, when, of course, he will take the more favourable of the two funds, either the Provident Fund or the Compensation Act. It places the employee, if he has been injured, in the position of choosing that one which is more beneficial to him. If an employee is killed and has not elected prior to the accident, then his

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

dependents cannot apply under the Compensation Act. The present amendment is intended to cover these points. In order to be able to assure the House that the employees of the Government Railways were perfectly satisfied with the amendment, I requested the solicitor of the railway to have them sign their approval to it. If the House desires to know the names of

the heads of ten different organizations who have signed the document, I can furnish them. I have their signatures to show that they are perfectly satisfied. I repeat what I said last year, that if we find that the amendment proves unsatisfactory, we shall have to come back to Parliament and seek another amendment.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): The resolution as it stands now, I think, is acceptable to the employees. It seems to have changed its form since it was first put on the Order Paper.

Mr. REID: I do not think so.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I think so. It strikes me that the Provident Fund should be eliminated from all consideration in this connection. The Provident Fund was organized for the purpose of paying old age pensions. It had been found on the Intercolonial that when men had got up in years they were almost useless to the road and it was difficult to turn them off without doing something for them. A Bill was introduced in 1907 for the purpose of retiring men who had become unable to carry out their duties on the road. That was the main purpose of the Provident Fund. The fund itself is made up from contributions by the employees amounting to one and one half per cent of their monthly wages and a similar amount paid by the Government. This money is funded and from it the old age pensions are paid. These are ridiculously small. I do not see how old employees can live on \$20 a month. The question of dealing with this Provident Fund, I think, should engage the attention of the minister. This is a good opportunity because while the Provident Fund makes provision for paying a monthly allowance to the man who is totally disabled, that was not the original intention of it. As the minister is making provision now to deal with all cases of accident, through a Compensation Board, there is no reason why the old age pension system should be mixed up with accidents at all. It strikes me that the proper course