

At this stage, Mr. Roy refused to tender his own resignation on request, but was prepared to submit to summary dismissal if necessary.

Meanwhile, on July 3rd, the item for a life annuity for Mr. Roy of \$3000 had been introduced in the External Affairs estimates. In view of Mr. Roy's last telegram, however, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Rhodes, and also the Prime Minister, moved that the item be withdrawn.

During the course of this discussion, Mr. Bennett had pointed out that he understood that Mr. Roy was so impaired by deafness and age that his resignation should be accepted, or even requested. He referred to parallel cases where decrepitude justified retirement from public office.

Of necessity there must be an age when men should retire from these posts. In Great Britain that age has been settled at sixty; in this country we have fixed that age at sixty-five, and while it is quite true that technically the civil service regulations do not apply to ministers and sixty-five is not an age for compulsory retirement while seventy is, in experience in the older countries it has been found that the age I have suggested is reasonable. (1)

Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. Lapointe defended Mr. Roy, claimed that his health was improved, and deprecated the suggestion of his recall or imposed resignation. They particularly objected to the thought that Mr. Bennett might appoint a new political minister to France just on the eve of an election in which the government might be defeated.

(1) H. of C. Debates, July 3, 1935, p.4202.