

On sub-section 4,

Mr. BLAKE. There may be some persons who are contributing to the superannuation fund in error. We have had such cases before, where contributions had been made for a considerable time; but you are making an absolute provision that all those who contribute to the fund shall be entitled to superannuation.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It provides that persons who now contribute shall come under the operation of the first and second clauses.

On section 2,

Mr. CASEY. I would suggest that instead of paying an annuity to officers superannuated, Parliament should pay them a lump sum based on their length of service. The cost to the country under the present system depends on the number of years the officer lives after he has left the service. The amount given could be invested by the officer as he pleased; at all events, I do not think the country should be bound down to pay him so much a year, no matter how long he might live.

On section 3,

Mr. BLAKE. I would suggest to the hon. Minister whether it would not be proper, in regard to the use of the ten years' clause, to pass an Order in Council in the case of all persons who enter the service over thirty years of age declaring whether or not they were to be treated as eligible under this clause. If you declare that the person who has been appointed, was appointed as being possessed of particular attainments and qualifications you will then know when you come to deal with the matter of superannuation whether he comes within the clause or not. At present, if you were considering the question of superannuation, an officer might say that he was appointed when more than thirty years of age, and that he had special qualifications, although he was only too glad to come into the service at the time of this appointment. My proposal is that in all cases in which a person is employed as possessing special professional or other qualifications or attainments, that fact should be expressly stated in the Order in Council on his appointment; if not, that it should be conclusive that his appointment did not come under this clause.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I will take this suggestion into consideration.

Bill reported.

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

### After Recess.

#### SUPPLY.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee.

Mr. BLAKE. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to call the attention of the House to the condition of public business this Session, and contrast it with former Sessions, and to invite the attention of the House to the situation in which we stand with reference to several measures which were proposed in the Speech from the Throne. The Sessions for the last nine years have averaged about eighty-one days.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Might I ask the hon. member to postpone his remarks in the absence of the leader of the Government, whom I would like to have here while he is making his comments.

Mr. BLAKE. Will the House be in Committee of Supply again?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. We will not complete the Estimates to-night.

Mr. BLAKE. I was anxious to make my observations to-night; but as the hon. gentleman says we will not conclude the Estimates at this sitting I will postpone them.

(In the Committee.)

327. Governor General Secretary's Office—To pay to C. J. Jones, difference of salary between \$1,450 and \$1,800 from 1st February to 30th June, 1883, as provided by the Civil Service Act..... \$145.83

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. The Civil Service Act provides that in the event of a senior officer being absent from sickness, or on leave, the officer below him who discharges his duties temporarily is entitled to be paid at the rate paid the senior officer. In the present case the vacancy occurred, not by leave of absence or sickness, but by the death of the senior, for which no provision is made in the Act.

Mr. BLAKE. This is a temporary allowance.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes.

328. Department of the Secretary of State—To provide for the salary of one chief clerk in Correspondence branch \$2,000, and for the statutory increase to the salary of one clerk (omitted in main Estimates) \$50..... \$2,050.00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I wish to explain that when Mr. Grant Powell was promoted to the Under-Secretaryship of State we omitted in the main estimates to provide for the salary of the chief clerk who took his place. This chief clerk will receive \$2,000 instead of \$2,400 which was paid to Mr. Powell.

329. Department of Finance—Additional allowance to the Clerk of Contingencies..... \$200.00

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. This is \$200 additional to Mr. Ross, the Clerk of Contingencies. He was in the Secretary of State's Department at the time the stationary was re-organized, and he took charge of that office at the request of the head of the Department. He left the Department of the Secretary of State rather reluctantly, because he was hoping for an advantage which, as it turns out, he would have received had he remained there, as he was the senior of the gentleman who has since been appointed deputy head.

Mr. BLAKE. Is this a permanent increase?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes.

330. Department of Railways and Canals—To provide for the salaries of four third class clerks..... \$2,800.00

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. These are two persons who have been employed at \$2 a day for a number of years, and they are now to be put on the permanent list.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not fully understand how this is. The reason, I presume, for the division of the Department of Public Works into two separate Departments was the view that the Canadian Pacific Railway was about to be constructed as a public work—at all events, that was the main reason. Now that that work is being constructed by a private corporation, it is obvious that the work of the Department of Railways and Canals must be less instead of more, than if the whole responsibility of that construction continued to be in that office. Why at this day and under these circumstances more permanent officers are proposed to be added to the Department of Railways and Canals I cannot very well see.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There have been a number of persons temporarily employed, some of them for several years, and it is proposed to place two of these persons on the permanent list, by which their salaries will be rather decreased than increased. What the hon. gentleman has said with regard to the division of the Department is quite true, but it will be some time before these works are