

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the table for the infantry. The cavalry and artillery, in all these services, get a little more, as they are looked upon as a more scientific branch. In regard to the district staff, I may point out that the officer who used to be known as the deputy adjutant general, now district officer commanding, receives in Canada a minimum of \$1,700 per annum. An officer holding the same relative position in the British service receives \$3,500 per annum, with an age retiring allowance. That, I think, will show that the pay given to our permanent corps is absurdly small as compared with the pay of similar men in the United States, and very much less than the pay in the British service. Now, nobody will say for a moment that our men are in any way inferior. They have proved themselves to be equally as good on the battlefield, in camp or in the office. And my contention is that, this being the case, and as we are now in the growing time in Canada, and as we are told by the government that there is a surplus, now is the time for the government to bring in a pension Bill giving these men what is justly due them.

Now, it may be asked: Why should we be asked to give pensions to these men when they get such salaries as they do? The answer to that is, that the pay given to these men is not such as to make it possible for them to save anything. Everybody knows—taking the officers first—that an officer must uphold his position, or he is not fit for the position, he must clothe himself well and live as a gentleman, but not extravagantly; and we all know that when they are in barracks there are certain calls made on them that they cannot get out of. There is a certain amount of entertaining looked for from them, and an officer—

ROYAL ASSENT.

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

The Right Honourable the Chief Justice of Canada, Deputy Governor, desires the immediate attention of your Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went up to the Senate Chamber.

And having returned,

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that the Right Honourable Deputy Governor had been pleased to give, in His Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:—

An Act relating to the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada.

An Act respecting the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada.

An Act respecting the South Ontario Pacific Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Orford Mountain Railway Company.

An Act further to amend the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

An Act respecting the Supreme Court of the Independent Order of Foresters;—and

Mr. PRIOR.

An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial year ending June 30, 1901, and for other purposes relating to the public service.

SUPPLY—PENSIONS TO HEADQUARTERS STAFF, PERMANENT MILITIA.

Hon. Mr. PRIOR. When I was interrupted in my speech by the House being called to the Senate Chamber, I was attempting to show reasons why it was impossible for the members of the permanent corps to save anything for their old age out of the meagre pay they receive from the government. The calls upon the officers are, as I have shown, so numerous that they cannot be expected to lay up anything in store for a rainy day. In regard to the non-commissioned officers and men, nearly every little item that a man desires to procure in the way of underclothes, tobacco, entertainment, amusements and everything like that, has to come out of the 40 to 80 cents per day, and it is simply impossible for him to lay by anything for the future, as an ordinary labouring man or mechanic is able to do. Besides that, after they have put in twenty or twenty-five, or thirty years of continuous service in the army, they are totally unfit for the general work that they might be called upon to do after leaving the service. Besides, it is imperative that we should have the very best class of non-commissioned officers that can be found in any army, and unless a man can see something to look forward to in the way of a pension he is not going to stop in the service more than four or five, or six years. To become a good non-commissioned officer a man must serve six, seven, eight, or ten years. At present, instead of keeping with the colours as they used to do, and becoming thoroughly qualified and experienced non-commissioned officers, we lose them by the dozen.

I am sorry to say that, although the country is paying quite a large sum for the maintenance of the Royal Military College, where the finest education in the world, I believe, is given to the young cadets, we find that instead of these young men being willing to join the Canadian service, a few of them take service in the Imperial army, but the great majority of them either go off to the United States as engineers, or take similar service in Canada, and it is impossible to get them to join the permanent corps. To my mind the sole reason for this is that they see no future for them. Their companions who enter the Imperial service look forward to the day when, after having put in a good many years of service, they can retire with an adequate pension. But the officer who joins the Canadian service, although he does equally good work, has no such future to look forward to. I am glad indeed to see that the Minister of Militia has given notice of a pension Bill that he is about to bring