

ance of the Minister of Customs and the regulations referred to. It appears to me that if there is such a regulation as this, it is scarcely fair to allow a man to violate this regulation in the face of the known facts. It seems to be a custom with the Government here to superannuate men all over the Dominion, and especially down in Nova Scotia, before they become incapacitated from old age. That is the case in my own county. The Lighthouse Keeper of Cranberry Island has been superannuated upon quite a large allowance. His salary as Lighthouse Keeper was \$750 a year, and he has been superannuated on, I suppose—I do not know the figures, but I have been told—from \$400 to \$500 per annum. Mr. Hanlon, the late Lighthouse Keeper, was an efficient officer; he was quite capable of performing his duties, and if nothing unusual happened, would be for many years, but he has been superannuated and another has been appointed. I am not finding fault so much with the superannuation of Mr. Hanlon as Lighthouse Keeper as with the man appointed in his place. A Lighthouse Keeper, especially on an island, ought to be capable of managing a boat. I have been told, and I believe it is true, that, before a Lighthouse Keeper is appointed, he is required to pass an examination and to give evidence that he is capable of managing a boat, and not only performing the duties of managing the lighthouse, but making himself useful in saving lives and property if any wrecks should occur on the shore. I am told that the man appointed in place of Mr. Hanlon cannot row a boat, cannot manage a boat at all, and would be lost if he were alone in a boat at sea; and he is there on the island without an assistant or any one to manage a boat. It is well known in Nova Scotia that Cranberry Island is an exposed place, and that Mr. Hanlon and his assistants have been called upon to save property and sometimes to save life, and have most efficiently performed that office; but the present incumbent of that position, I am told, cannot do it; he cannot row a boat at all, and therefore he is incapable of performing the duties of the office to which he is appointed. I do not know, but I have reason to believe, that both these officers have been superannuated, not because they were not efficient officers, but to make places for their successors, and the country is burdened with additional taxation in order that friends of the Government may be remunerated for services performed at elections. In making the appointment to fill the place of Mr. Hanlon, I think the Minister might have found many in the county of Guysboro' to fill that position. The people there, on the shore especially, are all capable of managing boats, and very many of them would have made good and efficient Lighthouse Keepers; but it does not seem that a man from the county of Guysboro' could be found to fill the position and satisfy the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but he sent a man from his own county, the county of Colchester, a man who knows nothing at all about the sea or about boats, and who is consequently thoroughly incapable of performing the duties to which he has been appointed. I do not intend to say anything more with regard to this matter, but I hope the papers I have asked for will be brought down.

Mr. McMULLEN. I desire to offer a few remarks to the House on the question now before it. I had the pleasure last year of presenting a statement to the House in connection with superannuations, and at that time I drew the attention of the House to the fact that the country was called upon annually to pay a very large amount under the head of superannuations, also that the amount was largely increasing from year to year. I think that the question connected with superannuations deserves the serious consideration of the Government. I must say I fully expected this year that some measure would have been introduced for the purpose of freeing the country from the increased

burden the country is called upon to submit to by the operation of this Act. I find that, during the past year, no less than fifty-seven have been superannuated. I find that these fifty-seven are drawing the gross sum of \$23,224.88 annually. That is equal to \$511.70 each. Now, it is very well known that those in the Civil Service are called upon to pay into the Dominion Treasury a certain percentage from the salaries they receive. Those percentages that are paid in are far from being anything equal to, or more than a very small percentage of, the amount they receive after they are superannuated. I find that the sum per capita paid annually to those on the superannuation list is increasing. I find that, of those on the list for 1882, the average amount they received last year for superannuations was \$488. I find that this year the average amount paid is \$511.70. In the list of those that have been retired during the year under the Act, I find that eight have been granted a gratuity. It is, of course, necessary, when a man is retired, that he must have served ten years before he can be superannuated, according to the terms of the Act. In previous years when those that had served less than ten years were superannuated, a number of years were added to their time, in order to bring them within the operations of the Act, and I find the Government have not adopted that system this year; time has been added, however, to the number of years served by some of those who have been superannuated within the year. But I find the Government have retired eight in all under the Act, and to those eight they have granted a gratuity of \$3,147.66, or about \$400 each. These men have only served, on an average, eight years, but I see the sum paid into the fund by them, as I have just said, is only \$542.96, which is the sum those eight persons have contributed to the superannuation fund during the whole time they were in the Service. Now, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the amount that is paid by them and the amount they have received in the way of gratuity, we find they have actually drawn \$6 for every \$1 dollar they have paid in. I am quite satisfied that the Government should deal fairly and honestly with the Civil Servants; I am quite prepared to say that they should be treated somewhat liberally and not niggardly, but when you come to consider the fact they have not only received a corresponding amount with what they have paid, in and interest thereon, but they have received actually \$6 for every \$1 they have paid in, I say that the Government is acting generously at the expense of the country. When we consider the operations of this Act from beginning to end, and consider the fact that these Civil Servants are not only granted a very respectable salary annuity, but are placed upon the superannuated list when they retire from the Service, and that those who are retired under the Act who have served less than ten years get a gratuity, it must be evident that they are very generously dealt with. I said a few moments ago that time has been added to some of those who have been superannuated this last year. I find the Government have added in all thirty-five years to the time of the fifty-seven that have been superannuated within the year. That may be looked upon as a very small number of years to be added, but when we consider how the expenditure under this item is increasing, I think the Government should be exceedingly careful in the manner in which they administer that law; because even that small number of years added has increased the annual expenditure \$1,412.50. Now, I say there is no necessity for this practice. I hold that those men are well paid, liberally paid, for the services they perform, and I say that when they are retired and granted allowances in this way, that is all they are entitled to. I can see no reasonable ground whatever why the Act should be interpreted so as to increase the sum that is annually paid out under the operations of this system. Now, I would draw the attention of the House to this fact, that since the passing of the Act 664 persons have