

contribute for radio or any other purpose should be spent on this Commission.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

TARIFF BOARD BILL

SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 100, an Act to amend the Tariff Board Act.

He said: Honourable members, the purpose of this Bill is merely to increase the salary of the Chairman of the Tariff Board to \$15,000, and to provide the terms upon which, after ten years of service, he may be superannuated. Honourable members will recall, of course, that in the Tariff Act it was provided that the Chairman of the Board must be a judge of one of our higher courts. In pursuance of the Ottawa agreements of last year the Chairman of the Board has to perform certain functions which require great business capacity, a very comprehensive knowledge of Canadian business conditions, and the possession of judicial qualifications of a high order. The judicial decisions he has to render affect not only our own country, but also other countries of the Empire.

I am sure it has not been the desire of the Administration to increase expenditure, but it has felt that the very best man available must be secured, and the salary necessary to induce him to accept the position must be paid. Honourable members might be surprised to know how reluctant judges of the higher courts are to leave the Bench—I mean not at the age of seventy-five, but at any time—to take a position where their work will be the subject of public criticism, to which they are not permitted to reply.

Right Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM: Honourable senators, when the first Tariff Board was organized, the chairman—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Was a good man.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM:—was not paid any such salary as is proposed here. I presume he was not as competent as the present chairman. There was no plan prepared for him, no foundation on which he could build, and he was compelled to develop his organization in the way that seemed best to him as time went along.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM.

I admit the ability of the gentleman who is chairman of the present Board, but I am not so ready to enthuse over his colleagues. The Government seemed to be sincerely desirous of getting the very best man for chairman, but to my mind it slipped a little when appointing the other members. I have nothing to say against these gentlemen personally, but I know that at least one of them is not overburdened with experience in dealing with matters of the kind that the right honourable gentleman has said will come within the purview of the Board.

When a former Government was trying to induce a member of one of the superior courts to become Chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners, objection was raised by some people that his legal ability was perhaps not as great as that of some other judges. My reply always was, "That is one of the reasons I am recommending him." By that I meant no reflection on Bench or Bar. Although it is true that the members of that Board have to make decisions which are not only practical from a railway point of view, but sound in law as well, there are times when they must treat the law with a certain amount of disrespect. That holds good for all boards of this nature. The reason is that from time to time there arise new conditions to which no existing law can be applied. I say without hesitation that the late Judge Mabey has never had a superior as Chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners. In travelling through the country, when he found conditions which it seemed were not covered by any section of the Railway Act, he would make a decision that he thought was practical. Ninety-nine per cent of such decisions when reviewed were sustained, and very often the Act itself had to be amended to conform to them. Similarly, I presume, among all the detailed problems that will have to be faced by the Tariff Board there will occasionally be some for which no solution can be found within the four corners of the Customs Act.

I am in favour of a Tariff Board. At one time I displeased some of my friends by voting in this House for the appointment of such a Board; but I had had some experience, of which neither Parliament nor the Government was aware, that convinced me that such a Board would relieve Parliament and the Government of many burdens. Sometimes, for the reason that changes are not made, it will be said, as it was in my time, that in certain matters the Tariff Board has done nothing. But that is no reason on which to base a judgment of the work done by the Board. It renders very valuable service by thoroughly investigating facts, and the evidence it col-