

glad if some system could be adopted by which these extreme cases could be met.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I think our old superannuation system was very defective indeed, especially in the point indicated by the hon. gentleman from Hastings, that while a man might retire in comparatively good health from the public service after having served 20 years, he might live 20 years and draw a handsome retiring allowance all that time, but if he dropped dead at his post, his widow and family got nothing except this gratuity of two months' pay. I see that the government do not propose to deal with that matter in this Bill, but I hope the leader of the government will be able to give the House some assurance that, at the next session, steps will be taken to put the superannuation law on a proper and businesslike basis, to assimilate our pension system to the systems which prevail in the banks and big railway companies. I hope the hon. Secretary of State will be able to give us some information.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—A gentleman who was in the employ of the post office for 30 years, during which time he paid into the superannuation fund, died a few months ago, and all that his mother obtained was two months' pay. That was monstrous injustice. No government or individual should take a man's money that way and keep it. They should at least return the amount that he paid in, and this House should register a vow that they would see that such grievances should be remedied at once. The government, or any men with consciences should at once rectify an injustice of that kind.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I think the Minister of Finance, when this question was under consideration in the Commons, intimated to the House, that their intention was to introduce a superannuation law in the future, somewhat of the character of the late law. It may not be exactly in accordance with it. Perhaps the hon. Secretary of State or Minister of Trade and Commerce, may inform the House whether that matter has been considered and whether they intend to do anything?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—It has not been considered as yet; but I may say informally that the question of the Superannuation Act will probably be considered.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Did not the Commission recommend that the Superannuation Act should be resumed again?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—That matter will be under the consideration of the government. No decision has been arrived at.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I do not think any assurance of the government now is of value. It is a case almost of deathbed repentance.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I may remind my hon. friend that deathbed men have a fashion of living very long.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I think both these hon. gentlemen were governing the country when an order in council was passed declaring that if any official sought to influence members of parliament or anybody for an increase of salary, it should be accepted as tantamount to a resignation, and if not a resignation that he should be dismissed. That was introduced during the administration of the Customs Department by the late Mr. Burpee. I am not aware that that order has ever been repealed.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is still in force.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—But it has been a nullity, and members of parliament have pestered the heads of the department for increases of salary, and pressure has been brought to bear, and where the minister had not sufficient strength of character to deny it, they would keep at him and worry the life out of him. Has that same system prevailed during the last twelve years? Do hon. gentlemen believe that such a clause will have the slightest effect after it has been on the statute-book for six months?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—If you make it read 'No female person,' it might have the effect.