

of legislation to make it possible for Mr. Commissioner Stone to continue in office, as he is willing to do, until the board makes its report. Under the provisions of this bill he could remain in office at the pleasure of the Governor in Council during a period not exceeding one year from the 30th of June, 1947, and it is expected that the report will have been issued before that time.

Hon. Mr. ROEBUCK: Did I understand the honourable leader to say that Mr. Commissioner Stone is over 65?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: He is 75.

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

### THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the third reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, may I emphasize that it is considered advisable to extend the term of office of Mr. Commissioner Stone because he has heard the evidence given at the hearings on the freight rates case. I am not suggesting that if he were replaced the other commissioners would do anything prejudicial to the interest of the Maritime provinces or of labour, but we would feel much better if his services were retained until the board makes its report.

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

### CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION BILL

#### MOTION FOR THIRD READING WITHDRAWN

On the Order:

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for the third reading of Bill 415, an Act to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act, and the motion in amendment, of the Hon. Senator Roebuck "That the Bill be not now read a third time but that it be committed to a Committee of the Whole presently."

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable senators, I propose to ask the house to grant me a special favour by allowing this bill to go to the committee of the whole. When this measure was before the house yesterday I was opposed to it and in favour of the amendment proposed by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). Since then I have heard some representations which indicate to me that I may be wrong. Therefore, I should like honourable members to have an opportunity of discussing the bill in committee without committing themselves to any principle.

Hon. CHARLES L. BISHOP: Honourable senators, some of the clear minds in the Senate seem a bit confused over this measure.

I think that both the purpose of it and the way in which that purpose is to be carried out are set forth in complete clarity. The enactment is motivated by the best of intentions.

In brief, the age for compulsory retirement, which now is 70, is reduced to 65. However, if it is desired to retain the services of anyone up to 70 years of age this may be done from year to year by order in council.

I am informed that no wholesale retirement of government employees is to be expected, unless the employees themselves want to retire. Those who are capable, efficient, and willing to be kept on are not likely to be dispensed with. While this new provision permits a civil servant to retire voluntarily at age 60, the government also may retire anyone at that age if it deems that there is sufficient reason for so doing; but when it is agreed that the efficiency of many persons of 60 is unimpaired, I do not foresee any civil servant possessing such qualifications being forced out of the service.

If anyone wants to retire because of impaired health, or for other reasons, he will find that the bill provides the necessary facilities to enable him to do so under favourable circumstances. As one moves out one leaves room for someone else to move up in the progression of promotion. Advancement is the natural ambition of the public servant and the prospect of it is, or ought to be, an incentive to the best endeavour.

If in the civil service superannuation system there is any measure of generosity on the part of the public treasury, it is only in line with the modern trend in all democratic countries towards social security. A sense of security is the solvent of many worries, and one of the great contributions to peace of mind. If the treatment provided for can be called generous, let us remember that civil servants who are eligible for its benefits have earned the reward by the length, fidelity and acceptability of their service, and also by making substantial contributions year by year to the large fund which sustains the system of superannuation.

One word more. I am advised that this measure is approved by the Civil Service Federation of Canada, the Ottawa Civil Service Association, the Amalgamated Civil Service Organization, and, as the honourable leader has said, by a parliamentary committee and a royal commission. The sanction of such authentic bodies should go far to allay the fears and dispel the gloom of the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) or of any other members of this house who may share his views.