

(e.) Retirement shall be compulsory on any person to whom the superannuation allowance hereinbefore mentioned shall be offered, and such offer shall not be considered as implying any censure upon the person to whom it is made; nor shall any person be considered as having any absolute right to such allowance, but it shall be granted only in consideration of good and faithful service during the time upon which it is calculated, and nothing herein contained shall be understood as impairing or affecting the right of the Governor to dismiss or remove any person from the Civil Service.

(f.) If the Head of a Department reports with respect to any person employed in his Department, and about to be superannuated, from any cause other than that of ill-health or age, that the service of such person has not been satisfactory, the Governor in Council may grant such person a superannuation allowance being less than that to which he would have otherwise been entitled, as to him may seem fit.

(g.) If any person to whom this Act applies, is constrained from any infirmity of mind or body to quit the Civil Service before the period at which a superannuation allowance might be granted him, the Governor in Council may allow him a gratuity not exceeding one month's pay for each year of his service; and if any such person is so constrained to quit the service before such period, by reason of severe bodily injury received without his own fault in the discharge of his public duty, the Governor in Council may allow him a gratuity not exceeding three months' pay for every two years' service, or a superannuation allowance not exceeding one-fifth of his average salary during the then last three years.

(h.) If any person to whom this Act applies is removed from office in consequence of the abolition thereof, in order to the improvement of the organization of the Department to which he belongs, or is removed or retired from office to promote efficiency or economy in the Civil Service, the Governor in Council may grant him such gratuity or superannuation allowance as will fairly compensate him for his loss of office, not exceeding such as he would have been entitled to if he had retired in consequence of permanent infirmity of body or mind, after adding ten years to his actual term of service.

(i.) The allowances and gratuities granted under this Act shall be payable out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada.

(k.) All superannuation allowances fixed and granted under the Acts hereby repealed are confirmed.

Motion agreed to; and the House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. This is a consolidation of the Act with some slight amendments with reference to superannuation. The change which is proposed to be made, becomes necessary from the passage of the Civil Service Act of last Session. In the original Act, providing for superannuation, all employes of the Government, either inside or outside were included; but by the Act of last Session, the outside service was confined to Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue. It is intended by this amendment to extend the superannuation to all the other outside Departments by Order in Council. Hon. gentlemen opposite will recollect that under the old Act, all the prominent officials of the railways were placed on the superannuation list, and so with reference to some of the other Departments. I believe that the Deputy Receiver-General's Department has never been brought under the operation of the Act; but by this change these Departments will be placed in exactly the same position they were in before. These are the principle changes proposed in the shape of amendments to the existing Act.

Mr. BLAKE. The whole question of superannuation necessarily comes up under this Bill; and I had hoped, as the hon. gentleman proposes to consolidate and amend the Acts relating to the subject, and to extend the services to which superannuation is to be applied, that he would have given, at an early day, some statement as to the effect of the measure on the service generally, and as to its financial effects. The hon. gentleman acknowledged, at an earlier stage of this Session, that the principle upon which this Government dealt with this question when they originally proposed the Superannuation Act, was a mistaken one; that they forgot that the principle of life insurance was applicable to these cases; and that the reduction to be made in the allowances by the Government was a mistaken reduction. We have found the system continuing year after year, and the discrepancy between the receipts and expenditures increasing year after year, and the gross amount of the expenditure increasing year after year, until we find

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it difficult to ascertain where it will end; and now we have a vague and indefinite proposal in this Bill, authorizing the Government to determine from time to time, outside of certain classes, whom they will and whom they will not superannuate. My impression is that it would have been more in accordance with proper legislation and a due regard for the rights of Parliament, if the Government had brought down a proposal as to what classes of persons they were about to superannuate. If the Government are not able, after the number of years that this system has been in vogue, to declare what classes of persons ought to be superannuated, and what classes ought not, because the subject is so obscure and so difficult, they ought to be assisted by a discussion in this House. It is impossible now to declare who ought and who ought not to be superannuated; and yet, when a suggestion was made in the other branch of the Legislature by an hon. gentleman who was formerly a member of the Government, the former member for Terrebonne, the hon. Mr. Masson, that information should be brought down on this subject, the hon. gentleman who had charge of the Bill there said it was very difficult to do so, and the Bill comes down here in its present state. There is a proposal in this Bill that we should confirm all superannuation allowance heretofore granted. I do not think we should do that. There may be some granted to, or in excess of, the powers granted to the Government. One such case was brought before the attention of Parliament a few years ago by the hon. gentleman who is now Minister of Railways. The case was investigated, and it was found that the Government had exceeded their powers, and the matter was rectified. But what is now proposed is to give a wholesale statutory confirmation of all superannuation allowances which have been made, no matter whether they have been in excess of the powers of the Government or not. Perhaps that was not intended; perhaps all that was intended was that these superannuations should stand in as good a position as they were in before the passage of this Bill. But, if that be not intended, I think we may fairly ask what superannuations require statutory confirmation—why and on what ground. For my own part, I am dissatisfied with the working of the superannuation Act. I believe that the results of its working have not been advantageous; and while I am prepared to sustain some means whereby the services of an official, who is no longer competent to discharge his duties, may be dispensed with, I believe the present system is one which it is not in the interest of the country to retain on any ground. The hon. gentleman will see that the charge is very large. If I remember rightly, something like \$120,000 a year is now the difference between the receipts and the expenditures. I know that the report of the Civil Service Commission produces certain figures to show that there is a great saving; but that operation is performed by a sort of legerdemain which I do not think will commend it to the taxpayer. The Commissioners prove that in every case in which there has been economy, this has been either by the abolition of an office, or by the retirement of an official; and they assume that the person who retired would have lived for ever but for the Superannuation Act, or that an office abolished would have been perpetual; and therefore they claim that a large saving has been effected by these means. But we must remember that officers would die, and would be removed, even if there was no Superannuation Act; and therefore this claim of economy is ridiculous. Then there is a mischief in the present operation of this Act. It is supposed to be on the insurance principle, and the premium is no doubt inadequate to have the Act applied to certain persons; but the return I moved for a while ago, which has been brought down in part, is sufficient to show the House that a very large proportion of all the public servants who have been placed under the operation of the Superannuation Act have died in the service, and all those persons of course paid without benefit. They have a chance of living long enough and