

ANNUITIES FOR CERTAIN PRIVY COUNCILLORS—*Con.*

*Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid* (Prime Minister)  
—*Con.*

always hold myself ready to consider any scheme for the providing of those who have given the best of their lives to their country's cause. This country when it knows the question will accede to any reasonable proposition—7629.

*Pringle, R. A.* (Stormont)—7630.

I have always been in accord with the principle of pensions; quotes speech of Hon. W. E. Gladstone made in a debate on May 27, 1869—7630. The principle of pensions has been established in England for many years; there is no reason why it should not be established in this country. It would be well to allow this Bill to stand over for another session—7631.

*Sproule, T. S.* (East Grey)—7631.

We are committing the same mistake tonight that we made last session, when the Bill referred to passed through the House—7631. I am not opposed to the principles of pensions; I am opposed to the system on which pensions were granted last session. If pensions are granted at all there should be a limit as to the age of the recipient; this measure should be taken up early next session—7632.

*Taylor, Geo.* (Leeds)—7633.

If we repeal this law now we would be doing injury to a number of men whom the country does not want to injure. If we made a mistake last session we would be making a greater mistake now if we passed this Bill; suggests that Bill should not come into force until January 1, when we will have time to consider it next session—7633.

*Turriff, J. G.* (East Assiniboia)—7619.

On section 1—Some provision should be made for men who have given up their business to serve their country for a number of years, any cabinet minister who only modestly entertains cannot save a single dollar of his salary—7619. The effort that was made to provide a pension for ex-cabinet ministers was along the right line; suggests a fixed age limit as a remedy to existing conditions—7620.

*Wilson, U.* (Lennox)—7635.

This Bill is exactly like the Bill I introduced earlier in the session for the same purpose; on general principles I am opposed to pensions—7635.

Motion for the third reading of Bill (220) respecting the Act respecting annuities for certain privy councillors—Hon. W. S. Fielding—7649. Motion agreed to and Bill read the third time and passed—7660.

*Aylesworth, Hon. A. B.* (Minister of Justice)  
—7651.

I am in entire accord with the course the government is taking in proposing to

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repeal altogether this Act—7651. I have the fixed opinion that the whole pension system, so far at all events as ministers of the Crown are concerned, is contrary to public policy. The considerations which were urged by the hon. member for North Toronto apply with the greatest force towards increasing the salary of ministers—7652. Annuities for certain privy councillors. Explains the retiring allowance of the judiciary—7653. From the standpoint of representatives of the people, this retiring allowance for privy councillors is literally in the nature of a gift or bounty without any new service being performed. There is not any breach of faith in withdrawing the Act of bounty that was passed a year ago—7654.

*Bourassa, H.* (Labelle)—7659.

The strength of public opinion was directed against the Pension Bill because of the manner in which it was introduced and because of lack of discrimination in the law as between men who deserved it and men who did not. I am surprised at the decision of the government to repeal the law of last year without any distinction being made as to acquired rights—7659.

*Elson, P.* (East Middlesex)—7654.

The people who elected me expected that \$1,500 was the sum I would get, and with that expectation they elected me and on that ground I voted for repeal of the increase—7654. I concur in the increased indemnity given to the Prime Minister, no matter on which side of politics he may belong. I hold that the leader of the opposition should also be paid a salary and that the salary should be paid from the consolidated revenue of the country. I am opposed entirely to the principle of pensions—7655. Are the tillers of the soil and the toilers of the town to receive no pensions?—7656. I had no objection to the increases in the judges' salaries which were passed last session, but they were a little too high. Some people think that the Senate is useless and ought to be abolished, and therefore save money for the country instead of throwing it away—7657. I will vote with the government for the third reading of this Bill that will repeal the Pension Bill of last session—7658.

*Fielding, Hon. W. S.* (Minister of Finance)  
—7658.

I favour the repealing of this Act because it is evidently in advance of the public opinion of the country. If the principle of pensions is one to be admitted I know of no public servants who are more deserving of it than men who have served for a certain period of time in the position of cabinet ministers—7658.