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GOVERNORS OF COLONIES:

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THEIR CLAIM IN CERTAIN CASES TO RETIRING ALLOWANCES.

1. Much care and anxious attention has been bestowed by Her Majesty's Government from time to time, since the year 1802 down to the Report of the Commissioners on the Superannuation Act in 1857, on questions connected with the expediency of providing, in the interest of the State, adequate retiring allowances for various classes of public officers. The Report of the Commissioners of 1857 is comprehensive and elaborate. The propriety and force of the reasoning by which, from the experience of half a century, and the labours of previous Commissions in eliciting a vast body of oral and documentary testimony, they have deduced certain general conclusions, is no longer questioned. It is admitted that, on the whole, the public does gain by conditionally providing moderate gratuities and retiring allowances for its servants; and also, that such arrangement, by embracing all classes directly employed by the Crown, best obviates the anomalies previously complicating the details of that equitable arrangement.

2. Accordingly, almost all the suggestions of the Commissioners of 1857 have been embodied in a recent Act,* whose guiding equitable principle is virtually that, whilst direct employment by the Crown is necessary, it suffices also to support claims under that Act — or, in other words, that the Crown should extend its protection, under certain circumstances, to all its own servants; and if any are not embraced within the limits of that Act, we believe the

* 22 Vict. cap. 26.