

diately she became a widow, and not twenty-four years afterwards. I am inclined to think, if this matter were allowed to stand over until to-morrow, we might get a little information. We do not know the position of the lady, whether she has an income from any other source or whether she is really in need of the amount it is proposed to give her each year. I do not think the minister has given that information.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I said that this item was inserted because it was represented to me that she was in need of it.

Mr. HEAPS: I am informed—I do not know whether my information is correct or not—that there are immediate relatives of hers who are well able to take care of the lady in question, and who ought to do so.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The hon. member's information is wrong.

Mr. McRAE: This is a very bad precedent to establish and I entirely agree with what has been said on this subject by other hon. members. I will move that this item of \$1,200 be reduced to \$1.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I desire to say that I withdraw the item.

Mr. McRAE: That is satisfactory.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I inserted it because of representations made to me by members on the other side, of both oppositions.

Mr. MANION: The minister says: "Of both oppositions". He absolutely adheres to the statement that members on our side of the house asked for this pension?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes. Last year I had representations that this should be done.

Mr. MANION: From members of the Conservative party?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes. However, it is dropped.

Item withdrawn.

Pensions—To hereby provide, notwithstanding anything in the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act or any other act or law, for payment out of the consolidated revenue fund to Mrs. Beatrice Bell, widow of the late Graham A. Bell, of an annuity at the rate of \$1,750 per annum, to commence from April 1, 1929, and continue thereafter until the remarriage or death of the annuitant, \$1,750.

Mr. ROBB: The hon. member for Peace River inquired about this. Major Bell died on January 13, 1929. Under his will, made some years earlier, his estate was left entirely in trust for his three sons and no provision

was made for his widow. The late Major Bell had served the Dominion for over thirty-eight years and was eligible, in respect of length of service, for a pension of \$7,000 per annum, which he could claim when he reached the age of sixty; his age at his death was fifty-four years. He had been a contributor for thirty-five years to superannuation fund No. 2, under the Civil Service Superannuation and Retirement Act, and had contributed sums amounting to \$3,510.36, which were entirely surrendered to that fund due to Major Bell's oversight to elect to transfer to superannuation fund No. 5. Had Major Bell died prior to January 1, 1925, Mrs. Bell would have been eligible, under the Widows' Annuities Act of 1927, to receive a pension of \$1,750 per annum; or had Major Bell elected to transfer to superannuation fund No. 5, Mrs. Bell would also have been eligible, without any cost to Major Bell, for an annuity of \$1,750.

Major Bell could, under the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act of 1924, have elected to transfer from superannuation fund No. 2 to superannuation fund No. 5, and by an additional contribution equivalent to the difference between the 3½ per cent rate of contributions to fund No. 2 and the 5 per cent rate of contributions to fund No. 5, plus 4 per cent simple interest, have provided for an annuity for Mrs. Bell of \$3,500. It seems reasonable to consider that Major Bell's apparent neglect to provide for Mrs. Bell must have been occasioned through his devotion to his work having kept him from giving sufficient consideration to the situation in which Mrs. Bell might be left in the event of his death. So we are giving the superannuation as if he had transferred to superannuation fund No. 5.

Mr. SPENCER: What was the estate of Major Bell when he died, and is anything being done by the sons for their mother?

Mr. ROBB: I have no information. All I am interested in is the obligation of the state to a public servant who served the public for thirty-eight years and who contributed to that superannuation fund.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Again in this case I think some of us can appreciate the sympathy extended by members of the cabinet to the widow of a colleague, and that is undoubtedly to be commended. On the other hand, it seems to me that we in this house ought to act in such a way that we can justify our action before the public at large, and that the precedent will constitute a general law. We are often accustomed to listen in