

position which they occupy as members of Parliament. They should recognize the importance of Parliament, and should not delegate their powers to the Government as they have done in several instances. I think that they should assert their position in regard to this matter.

Hon. Mr. POWER: The leader of the House has painted a rather melancholy picture of things as they would prevail if the Senate continued to deal with its own officers. The Senate has been in existence now for a great many years, and though the practice which the leader of the Government finds so highly objectionable has been in operation during all those years, I think that on the whole the staff of the Senate will compare favourably with the staff of any department of the public service. Evidently the leader of the Government has believed for a long time that there is a great deal of virtue in an Order in Council. If every little thing of this sort is to be done by an Order in Council we are practically giving up parliamentary government. For that reason I am very much in favour of the amendment moved by the honourable gentleman from Middleton (Hon. W. B. Ross).

There is another point which has not been referred to. The Bill now before the Committee provides that if everything is satisfactory in the case of an employee he is to be allowed 50 per cent of his salary.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Would the honourable gentleman excuse me if I were to ask him not to mix that question with the other one? They are two distinct points, and they can be argued better separately.

Hon. Mr. POWER: I do not care about making a number of speeches. The point I was going to make is really relevant to the clause which we are considering—at least so it seems to me. The law as it stands to-day is that a civil servant, if he is reported upon favourably, is entitled to retire upon half the pay that he has been receiving. But a number of the employees of this House—and the same is true of some of the employees of the Commons and some in the various departments—have been working under the old superannuation law, which was in operation up to 1898, and which still operates as regards civil servants employed before 1898. Under that superannuation law a member of the Civil Service who had served thirty-five years was entitled to receive thirty-five fiftieths of his salary.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: We do not disturb that. We make special provision

reserving the right of civil servants under the Superannuation Act.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: If that is preserved, it would be very satisfactory.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is preserved.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: The other day I voted in favour of taking the employees of the Senate out of the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission; and, as this Bill seems to be somewhat similar to the one there under discussion, perhaps I ought to explain my position. I am going to vote for this Bill.

This is another Bill altogether. The leader of the Opposition is mixed on this Bill. The members of his profession work at the Bar and there are always mixers at the Bar; consequently they mix everything they come in contact with. This Bill is just as clear as it possibly could be; and, as a layman, knowing nothing about law, I can give a perfect explanation of it. If officials of the Senate are perfect and complete in their make-up, and are able to carry out their duties, they have nothing to fear. The Bill, as I understand it, permits the Civil Service Commission to go into the departments to consult with the deputy heads, and to investigate as to the age of every official and as to his ability to perform the work that was assigned to him perhaps twenty-five or thirty or forty years ago. While a man may have been perfectly capable at that time, he may not be so capable now; and if such a case is found provision is made to relieve the position of the incumbent, and to provide for him in such a way that with the assistance of his superannuation he may live the rest of his days in moderate comfort.

I understand that this is a temporary Bill, and will only be effective to the 1st of July, 1921. Am I right in that?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: As I said when I spoke on the question of taking the Senate employees out of the control of the Civil Service Commission—and I think every honourable gentleman who spoke at that time said the same thing—where could you get a better set of men to deal with a matter of that kind than the men at the head of the Civil Service Commission? Where could you get better men to do the work of reorganizing the departments and making reports after having gone into the departments?