

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) It appears that we are to have two concurrent systems existing after this Bill passes. The present superannuation system will continue, with all its existing defects, and with the annual balance which year after year is charged against the fund, and the hon. gentleman, I understand, does not propose to increase the payments made by those now under the system.

Mr. FOSTER. Not by this Bill.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) So that the anomaly and injustice of which we are complaining with regard to the present superannuation system is not touched at all.

Mr. FOSTER. I may say also that the Bill I propose to introduce limits the recipient, or the contributor to the fund to the age of forty-five years. Under the present system, there is no limit of age, and a man may come to the service at seventy-five years old and contribute to the superannuation fund.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Are all the civil servants bound to contribute under the present system?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes; payment is taken per force from their salaries.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Is there any rule with reference to the age at which one may enter the Civil Service now?

Mr. FOSTER. In the inside service, yes; in the outside service, no.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I can tell my hon. friend that there are cases where men have been considered to be too old at sixty, and have been superannuated, and men put in their places at the age of sixty-eight.

Mr. FOSTER. It is not difficult to find such a precedent in the long history of the Civil Service.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am speaking of recent cases.

Resolution reported.

Mr. FOSTER moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 27) to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

SUPPLY—COAL OIL DUTY.

Mr. FOSTER moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I desire, Mr. Speaker, to correct a misstatement of a matter of fact, which, I am informed, occurred in the debate which took place yesterday. I am told that an hon. gentleman stated that the Mackenzie Government had imposed a duty on coal oil. That is not only not the fact, but it is the exact reverse of the fact. The

Mr. FOSTER.

duty on coal oil was imposed in 1868—I think the double duty was then imposed, one duty of customs and one of excise. In 1874, when the Mackenzie Government first revised the tariff, they left coal oil alone, but in 1877, when that question came up for discussion we absolutely abolished the excise duty which amounted to 5 cents per wine gallon, and we reduced the customs duty from 15 cents to 6 cents per gallon. No duty whatever was imposed by the Mackenzie Government, but the duty was abolished altogether in the case of excise, and reduced from 15 cents to 6 cents in the matter of customs.

FLOODS IN QUEENSLAND.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I wish to ask the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government, whether his attention has been called to the terrible calamity that has befallen our fellow-subjects in the colony of Queensland: where we see by recent reports, floods have devastated the colony causing a destruction of property to the amount of \$15,000,000, almost destroying the capital city of Brisbane, and necessarily involving a large number of individuals in very great suffering and loss. It seems to me this would be a fitting opportunity for us to show our sympathy and willingness to assist our fellow-subjects in that portion of the Empire. We, in this country have been singularly free from any misfortune, either by flood, fire, or pestilence, and I think we cannot better show our gratitude for the mercies we have reason to be thankful for, than by extending sympathy and liberality to any one who may be in distress, especially those who are of our own household. I would suggest to the Government the propriety of communicating with the Commissioner in London, who could easily ascertain from the agent of the Colony of Queensland whether assistance from this Government would be acceptable, and in what way, if acceptable, it could be most properly applied. Hon. gentlemen will recollect how very much the people of Newfoundland were gratified at the interest taken by the people of this country, when they met with a somewhat similar misfortune, and how the political acerbities which had then arisen were smoothed away by the fact being made evident that there was on this continent a sympathetic feeling for our fellow-subjects, a feeling expressed by the large subscriptions made on their behalf. It does seem to me that this is a fitting opportunity for us to extend to our fellow-subjects in Australia a similar relief. If we are not as prosperous as some of us would wish, yet we are rich enough to afford liberal assistance. I throw out this suggestion, and I trust it will be acceptable not only to the Government, but to the hon. members of the House.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I beg to say that within a few days, in all probability, we shall have more in detail a statement as to the extent of the calamity to which the hon. gentle-