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days should be adopted in regard to any member of the Senate or House of Commons who does not attend here, but who, being busy making money in Toronto or Montreal or elsewhere, will come here at the end of the session and will draw nearly two-thirds of his sessional indemnity while he has been doing nothing for the service of the country.

DOES NOT BELIEVE IN ELECTION FUNDS.

There is another feature of this measure as far as the indemnity is concerned which I want to point out. Perhaps it will be said again in reference to this that it is lowering the dignity of the House, but I do not believe in shams and subterfuges. I believe in facts and I believe it is the duty of the representatives of the people to put facts plainly and simply as they are. Had I been here last year at the time this bill was presented to the House I would have said then what I am just going to state. I may say that if we were going to consider only the duties that we perform here a salary of \$2,000 would be sufficient but when we consider the expenses connected with elections I think that an indemnity of \$2,500 is not too much. If both political parties in this parliament are really desirous, not of lowering the dignity of parliament, but of raising the level of morality and the standard of independence in this House, they should make an agreement that every member going out of this parliament shall not receive one cent from the electoral fund of either party to carry on his election.

This will mean a large economy to this country because we have to face the facts as they are and we know very well that the money which is spent in elections by both parties does not fall from the heavens. It is subscribed by people who expect to be repaid, and it is repaid by the country in the end. If they subscribe to the opposition it is because they expect that their friends will be in power at some time in the future and that they will compensate them for the money that they have subscribed to the election fund. If they subscribe to the government it is because they know that they are going to get back from the government probably twice or three fold the amount that they have subscribed to the electoral fund. It would be a great economy to the country, if we are going to consider it from the pecuniary point of view, if as a result of raising the salary of members to the present figure both parties would agree to stop this most detrimental practice of giving every member of this House a fund with which to carry on his election. Sir, the question is sometimes asked: How is it that there is so little independence of conduct in the parliament of Canada? The root of that question lies in the fact that most of the members of the House, except the wealthiest ones—and sometimes even the wealthiest ones, acting in this respect as they do in respect to the indemnity, are not the last to go to the committee to get their funds—are under a kind of moral pledge as our code of political morality would put it, of supporting their party tooth and nail under any kind of circumstances because their past elections have depended and their future elections will depend on the funds which are given to them by their party.

This is a question which should be faced courageously and frankly by the leaders of both parties, and they should see if they cannot find a means of stopping, at least in all rural constituencies, the expenditure of electoral funds, because, if they could, it would be a great advantage both from the pecuniary and from the moral point of view to the people of Canada.

DOES NOT APPROVE OF PENSIONS TO MINISTERS.

As far as the pension to ex-ministers is concerned, I am going to express myself as freely upon that as upon the other points. It has been stated in the newspapers, and especially in one newspaper edited by an ex-minister of the Crown, that it was somewhat mean on the part of members of parliament to defend the indemnity and say so little in defence of the pension to ex-ministers. Well sir, as both members of parliament and members of the government are receiving a salary at the hands of the

people of Canada, I claim that, at the present time, considering the functions that each perform, the ministers are getting much higher salaries in proportion to the services they render to the country than are the members of the House. If I might use an expression of one of those who are in favor of this pension law, I would say that all ministers of the Crown are of the same flesh and bone as we are. There are some able ones and some less able, some honest ones and some less honest.

My hon. friends opposite need not laugh. That is the story of every government that has been in power since confederation, and these hon. gentlemen have been longer in power than our friends have been. There is a variety of men in every government. Some deserve their salaries, some do not, but I entirely agree with my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Kemp) that we must take the average, take them all in all. The government keep us here for half a year when sometimes by a little activity, by the application of more business-like methods, by introducing their measures at an earlier period of the session and by knowing exactly what their policy is and sticking to it they could shorten the session by at least a month. That has been exemplified by all governments. When we compare the system followed by the British government with that followed by the Canadian government—and I speak irrespective of parties—we find a marked difference.

In England the budget is generally down the week after parliament is called, and all the government measures are brought in within the first month, while here we have been going on year after year since confederation deferring to the last of the session the most important measures, under the pretence that the government have to consult their friends, when the real reason is that the government prefers to have a tired parliament to discuss their policy rather than to bring their measures down at the beginning of the season when thorough and live discussions might be had. If the ministers would adopt business like methods; if they would go back to the obsolete British system of parliamentary government, we would have shorter sessions; they would be freed from members of parliament and members of parliament would be freed from them at an earlier date; every one would be happier and the country would be better governed. I repeat, that putting it on the basis of salary, members of the government receive a higher salary than members of parliament in proportion to the service each renders to the country. In the United States they have seven ministers who administer the affairs of 80,000,000 people, and if we had only seven ministers for our 6,000,000 I would not begrudge the ministers their salary. But, it has been the practice of all governments since confederation to have a number of portfolios which are filled by able and active men, and a certain number relegated to old worn-out politicians who are kept there simply as a reward for past services. I do not want gratitude to disappear from our political life, but after all gratitude should not prevail against the principles of justice. Allowing all that; allowing that our political traditions have kept us in our present condition, we are by this measure breaking our political traditions and breaking the traditions of the English constitution by giving a salary to the leader of the opposition, and by making the indemnity to members a real salary. I repeat that if the number of cabinet ministers were reduced,—and that is one of the principles we Liberals have advocated in the past—I would not begrudge paying a salary of \$10,000 or \$12,000 or even \$15,000 to the remaining active working ministers in the cabinet. And if that were done, not only would there be a saving of money but in my opinion it would be conducive to the better government of Canada.

GOOD AND BAD PENSIONED ALIKE.  
As regards the pensions, I agree with the members for East Grey, and I think too, with the great majority of the members of this House that granting of this pension to ex-ministers should be abolished. It is most absurd that the people of Canada should pay the salaries to the honest and to the

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