

PUBLIC PENSIONS.

ENORMOUS ABUSES OF THE SUPERANNUATION SYSTEM.

HOW PLACES ARE MADE FOR TORY POLITICIANS.

Occupants of positions under the Government in the Civil Service, are not as a rule overworked, and their salary is regular and has been accepted by them as sufficient. In order to make provision for their families after death, they can insure their lives, as other people have to do. In the great majority of cases public servants can perform their duties until an advanced age, and when they are incapacitated they are generally taken care of, as other old men are, by their children. It is a wise and prudent thing, however, to encourage them to lay aside something out of their salaries to create a fund out of which they might receive some provision for their declining years. An Act was passed, in 1870, to establish a fund of this kind, and fixing yearly deductions to be made from salaries of Civil servants to sustain the fund. The deduction from salaries was a reasonable one, but Sir L. Tilley reduced it one-half, so that now it provides but a small proportion of the money paid every year by way of superannuation allowance to old civil servants, who have retired. For instance, during the twelve months ending June 30th, 1885, the entire sums deducted from salaries amounted only to \$52,701, and the retired public servants drew in the same time from the public purse \$203,636! This shows a dead loss to the country of \$150,935. This does not look fair at all; yet, if the only people who drew it were those who had grown old or lost their health in the public service, one might overlook the great cost of the system. But it is not so. Men in the prime of life, and health, and strength, are superannuated in large numbers, either because their places are wanted for some political hanger-on of the government, or because they desire to engage in some sort of business that promises an increase of income, and have sufficient influence to get their names on this list of public pensioners. If they are very influential they get the Ministers to add some years to the actual term of their service, so that their superannuation allowance may be proportionately increased! They have gone so far as to superannuate healthy men of 45, and at that age a man is getting an experience and knowledge of his work that would be valuable to the country. It must not be forgotten, either, that while these retired officials are drawing their allowances there are other men appointed to their former positions who draw full pay. One or two illustrations may assist the reader to understand how the Superannuation Act has been worked by the Tories. There is the case of Mr McNabb, a man of 45 years of age, strong and vigorous, whom the Government desired to remove from the management of their railway in Prince Edward Island. They therefore started him off on a new career in private life with the snug annual income of \$1,714 for the rest of his days as a superannuation allowance. He at once got a position as an engineer on a railway under construction. While Mr. Mackenzie was in power he was daily overwhelmed by a flood of false and foul abuse by the Mail newspaper, which was conducted by Mr. T. C. Patteson. When Sir John obtained power in 1878, it became necessary for him to reward this unprincipled rib-stabber of the Mail. He, therefore, forced Mr. Joseph Leslie, the efficient and active Postmaster, of Toronto, to resign in 1879, and put him on the superannuation list, and gave Mr. Patteson the berth. The very next year Mr. Patrick, the efficient and active Clerk of the House of Commons, was forced out of his position to make room for a government favourite, and to appease him he is paid an allowance of \$2,379 per year; and so it has been going on ever since. In order to give an idea of the gross abuses of this system and its great cost to the country, some extracts are given below from a return moved for by Mr. McMullen, M.P., last Session, which shows the dates at which the persons were superannuated, the entire amounts paid in by them while in the service, and the amounts drawn by them up to 1st January, 1886.

Extracts from Return presented to House of Commons, 26th April, 1886

	Superannuated.	Entire amount paid in while in the Service.	Amount drawn up to January 1st, 1886.		Superannuated.	Entire amount paid in while in the Service.	Amount drawn up to January 1st, 1886.
Ashe, E. D.....	May 1, 1883.	\$ 458 00	\$2,613 32	Hewett, Thos.....	Apr 1, 1872..	112 00	10,873 44
Bell, R.....	Sept. 1, 1879..	343 23	4,215 75	Hood, H. A.....	Aug. 1, 1883..	349 29	1,488 65
Benoit, W.	July 1, 1879..	239 14	3,822 00	Kelly, E. C.....	July 1, 1871..	36 98	6,393 96
Birch, C. J.....	July 1, 1872..	112 00	10,207 26	Kingston, G. J. .	Feb. 1, 1880..	140 00	10,990 80
Briscoe, C.....	May 1, 1871..	69 33	10,972 92	Leslie, Joseph....	Feb. 13, 1879..	584 36	16,858 30
Brunel, A.	Jan. 1, 1883..	1,050 85	7,200 00	Mackay, H. B....	Dec. 15, 1881..	223 71	3,687 23
Cooper, F.	Jan. 1, 1883..	22 89	3,257 34	Passaw, J.	May 19, 1879..	69 33	19,139 39
Dickson, G. P....	Dec. 1, 1880..	525 02	6,039 00	Patrick, A.	Dec. 1, 1880..	Nil	12,098 33
Fife, W. G.....	Dec. 1, 1872..	211 97	10,773 00	Ramsay, C. W....	July 16, 1873..	83 56	4,446 13
Flanigan, Jno....	Sep. 1, 1881..	337 85	4,506 66				

Will the taxpayers of this country submit to this flagrant abuse of power and wasteful extravagance? The system has been misused and turned into a machine for political and party corruption of the vilest kind. Electors! Return no man to Parliament who is not pledged against a Government which has been guilty of such abuse of power!