

of Montreal was quite as powerful as the Government of Quebec. He did not think that he was mistaken in stating that the amount raised and controlled by the corporation of the city of Montreal was even larger than the amount controlled by the Province of Quebec; and, if this principle was put into practice, there was no reason why they should not exclude members under the influence of the Montreal corporation, or even members under the influence of any man outside of this House. His idea was that they should stick to the general principle, as proposed by the right hon. member for Kingston, namely, that the members of this House should be independent, pecuniarily speaking, of the Government of the day. This comprised everything, and, if they went outside of that, there was no limit to the principle; it might be carried to the most absurd lengths, and this Bill, instead of being called a Bill to secure the independence of the members of Parliament, should be called a Bill to exclude people from being members, or to exclude people from this House who might embarrass the Government. It had been said by the hon. Minister of Public Works that some employés in the nomination of the Local Government had sometimes to exercise judicial functions in regard to the electoral lists. These officials, the moment they had performed those duties in relation to this House, would, he understood, not be eligible as members of this House, and they would be equally excluded by the general clause. So there was no need for any new legislation with regard to this point. He could not approve of the employés of the Local Government being in this House, but he thought it should be left to the Local Government to protect themselves, and not to allow their employés to come here and take up the time for which they were paid for the performance of other duties. He thought this clause, as amended, was—he would not say absurd, because that was an unparliamentary word, but it was based upon no reasonable grounds, because, if they laid down this principle with regard to the permanent employés of the

Local Government, the same objection must apply to the temporary employés, and scarcely anybody would be left eligible for membership of this House. There was another part of the clause which he would like to see amended. This was the 14th line—"Nor any person entitled to superannuation or retiring allowance." The reason given by the hon. the Minister of Justice in reference to superannuated employés held good, in his opinion, because if these gentlemen could be called back after retirement to perform other duties for the Government; they remained the dependents of the Government; and as long as they remained so dependent they could not be elected, unless they chose to give up their superannuation. But he did not concur in the reasons given by the hon. the Minister of Justice with regard to the Judges. It was very well known that, having been fifteen years on duty as Judges they might resign, and then the Government provided a pension for the rest of their lives. This pension was not paid under certain reservations: during good conduct, and there was nothing less than conviction for high treason that would deprive them of it. So these gentlemen were entirely out of the hands of the Government, and entirely free from any influence of the Government, and, therefore, he did not see how they could be excluded.

MR. MACKENZIE: The hon. gentleman is mistaken in stating that Judges may retire after fifteen years' service.

MR. OUIMET said this question had been raised a few days ago, and after looking into the matter himself he understood that, after fifteen years—

MR. MACKENZIE said that was only in cases where the Judge was so afflicted by bodily infirmity as to be unfitted for the discharge of his duty. The particular clause referring to this point laid it down that when any Judge of the County Court became, after having continued in such office of Judge of a County Court in either of the Provinces of Canada for fifteen years or upwards, afflicted with some permanent infirmity which disabled him from duty, or in case