

ANNUITIES FOR CERTAIN PRIVY COUNCILLORS—*Con.*

*Maclean, W. F.* (South York)—1711.

Was ready to go on with Bill, but want to wait until another Bill dealing with same question comes into House—1711.

*Speaker, Mr.*—1711.

Stands—1711.

ANNUITIES FOR CERTAIN PRIVY COUNCILLORS.

Motion for leave to introduce Bill (220) to repeal the Act respecting annuities to certain Privy Councillors—*Mr. Fielding*—6541. Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time—6543.

*Fielding, Hon. W. S.* (Minister of Finance)—6541.

The purpose of the Bill is fully described in its title. This particular measure has been the subject of special criticism, and we have come to the conclusion to present a Bill to the House to repeal it—6541. On the other hand, I wish to add that I think the principle of this measure is a sound one—6542. It can hardly be argued successfully that there is anything like a vested right—6543.

*Foster, Hon. Geo. E.* (N. Toronto)—6541.

Perhaps the minister will indicate the scope of the Bill—6541. In a case of this kind, as in many other cases, certain rights are created—6541.

Motion for second reading of Bill (220) to repeal the Act respecting annuities for certain privy councillors—*Hon. W. S. Fielding*—7570. Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned—7570.

*Foster, Hon. Geo. E.* (North Toronto)—7570.

The hon. leader of the opposition (*Mr. R. L. Borden*) has been called away and will not be back till this evening; it might be advisable to let the Bill wait over till his return. Adjournment of debate—7570.

Bill (220) to repeal the Act respecting annuities for certain privy councillors—*Mr. Fielding*—read a second time, and the House went into committee thereon—7619. Bill reported—7636.

*Blain, R.* (Peel)—7633.

The electors of this country absolutely opposed to the Bill that was passed last session. I am prepared to support the Bill introduced by the Minister of Finance to abolish the pension to ex-cabinet ministers—7633.

*Borden, R. L.* (Carleton, Ont.)—7634.

I was in accord last year with the principle on which Bill was founded but I was not satisfied in the way the details were

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*Borden, R. L.* (Carleton, Ont.)—*Con.*

worked out. The hon. member for North Toronto did not say that pensions should be granted indiscriminately—7634. Would not be disposed to criticise the course suggested by the Prime Minister—7635.

*Clements, H. S.* (West Kent)—7620.

On section 1—I had not an opportunity of voting on either the Indemnity Bill or the Pension Bill. I did not approve of the Pension Bill of last session and had I been in the House I would have voted against it; there should be Pension Bill with an age limit passed in the House for deserving statesmen—7621.

*Fielding, Hon. W. S.* (Minister of Finance)—7636.

Sorry that hon. leader of the opposition (*Mr. R. L. Borden*) was unable to deal with Bill without attacking the government—7636.

*Foster, Hon. Geo. E.* (North Toronto)—7621.

On the preamble—The Pension Bill and Indemnity Bill voted last session, were all financial measures, which were bound up one with the other—7621. If the granting of pensions to ex-cabinet ministers was properly understood in the country the business sense of the country would not be opposed to the principle—7622. The road up to a cabinet office is long and hard and thorny—7623. The man who does not intend to be mean, cannot pass through this capital city of Ottawa on the salary of a Minister of the Crown to-day—7624. Seven thousand dollars a year for a cabinet minister is not an equivalent for the brain work and body work which must be devoted to his share of the business of the country; suggests the remedy of a saved annuity—7625. I do not think Canada is so poor that she wants to pitch her public men out upon the street when their cabinet rank is given up; the pension is right in principle but I would limit it in certain directions—7626.

*Kemp, A. E.* (East Toronto)—7629.

The duties of a cabinet minister are amongst the most onerous of any calling in life—7629. We ought to lay this matter over until the next session of the House and not hastily cancel this legislation which it is proposed to do by the Bill now before the House—7629-30.

*Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid* (Prime Minister)—7627.

Those who give their lives to the service of their country ought to be rewarded at a certain time when they can no more provide for themselves or work for their country; but the question is, where are you to draw the line?—7627. The mistake we made last year was to have the provisions of this Bill apply automatically without exception; would hesitate to adopt the British system—7628. I would