

OTTAWA, July 4 —The following is a memorial signed by the Honorable Sir Adolphe Caron to His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council, on his own behalf and on behalf of other beneficiaries, with reference to the proposed amendment of the Act of Parliament granting annuities to certain Privy Councillors, being ex-Ministers of the Crown :

The Act of Parliament in question was not passed hastily or without due deliberation. For several years past the justice of making some provision for public men on retiring from office, who have given their best services to the country, and, in doing so, often sacrificing their business earnings and future prospects upon becoming Ministers of the Crown, has been the subject of frequent discussion with, as well as between, members of the Cabinet ; has also been debated by Members of Parliament in caucus belonging to both parties ; was the occasion of frequent interviews during the past session between committees representing both Government and Opposition, and when the proposal to grant such annuities, as the result of an agreement of all parties, was laid before Parliament, it was finally adopted, and without a dissentient voice.

Recent discussions of this and a kindred measure providing for an increased indemnity to Members of Parliament, which took place during the by-elections, and certain assurances given the electors by candidates and others in the Government interest, prompt the undersigned to submit his views on the subject to Your Excellency-in-Council, in order that considerations which, he ventures to think, have an important bearing upon the propriety of either repealing or materially modifying the Act in question, may be called to the attention of Your Excellency's advisers.

The undersigned anticipates criticism upon what he shall have to say, as coming from one who benefits by this Act, and he would have preferred that some one not open to the suspicion of self-interest had presented the views he entertains on this subject ; but, fearing that no one else may do so, he now takes the liberty of presenting them in a way, he believes, in which they have not yet been laid before your advisers.

There is considerable vagueness in the complaints which have been made against the annuity allowance to ex-Cabinet Ministers, and

IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR

just what persons in authority who have spoken thereon, propose to do in the way of amending this legislation. Governments are not usually keen to admit, under pressure of either press or platform agitation, that any measure they have duly considered and have had enacted by Parliament was unwise, and should be forthwith repealed, or to acknowledge that they were so remiss in the discharge of their duty and so indifferent as to the responsibility of their position as to present to Parliament and cause to be enacted an important measure without proper consideration ; nor, for the reasons I have indicated above, do I believe Your Excellency's Government is open to such an imputation.