

there are 300 fishing boats worth over a million dollars, I would be indeed gratified in the interests of the fishing fleet. I ask the minister now if he will be so kind as to get the Prime Minister to do that.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I think my hon. friend knows my views on this subject, because he cannot be charged with any neglect of this harbour or any of the other harbours in his section of British Columbia. There is a general vote provided and it cannot all go to my hon. friend nor to any other hon. member, but I may say to him that it will be utilized to the very best possible advantage.

Mr. BRADY: I would point out to the minister that there are 300 vessels at Prince Rupert, and it is of the greatest importance that provision be made for their safety. I therefore ask that the vote in question be transferred for the float in question to help to protect their craft.

Item agreed to.

To hereby provide, notwithstanding anything contained in the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, or any other act or law, for payment out of the consolidated revenue fund to Robinson Russell Farrow, of an annuity at the rate of \$5,646.40, to commence from August 7th, 1926, and to continue thereafter at the above rate during his lifetime, \$9,319.57.

Mr. EULER: In the report of the parliamentary committee appointed last year to inquire into the Customs department a recommendation was made providing for the retirement of certain officials of that department. Among them was the then Deputy Minister of Customs and Excise. That report did not contemplate dismissal so that the official should lose his retiring allowance, but during the course of the debate a member of the House moved an amendment that the official be dismissed with the result that his retiring allowance would be lost to him. I have no particular criticism to make of that amendment except to say that I believe we did something less than justice to the deputy minister at that time. The House I need not say was in a state of considerable excitement and I am inclined to believe—in fact, I do believe—that the report of the committee was perhaps a better considered report than the opinion expressed by the House on that memorable evening. The gentleman for whom an allowance is proposed to be made under this item served in the department ever since he was a boy—to be exact, for a period of forty-five years. During the last five years he was in office he made application for super-

[Mr. Brady.]

annuation but his retirement was not permitted although he could have left the government service during any one of those five years and received an allowance.

Mr. CAHAN: Had he been paying into the superannuation fund?

Mr. EULER: He had been making payments for many years into the superannuation fund, and it seems to me that it is merely a matter of justice that we should restore to him now the rights he would have had if the report of the committee had been accepted.

Mr. KENNEDY: Is this the full amount that Mr. Farrow would have received had he retired?

Mr. EULER: Yes.

Mr. KENNEDY: The point I wish to make is that by this vote we are establishing the fact that a member of the civil service of Canada may allow his department to get into a state such as this department was found to be in last year by the Customs inquiry committee. Section 6 of the report of that committee reads as follows:

The evidence submitted to the committee leads to the general conclusion that for a long time the Department of Customs and Excise had been slowly degenerating in efficiency and that the process was greatly accelerated in the last few years.

And yet in spite of that expression of opinion we extend to this former official the same kind of treatment as if his department had been run in the most efficient manner. Under the circumstances I wish to protest against the passage of this item. There surely should be some distinction drawn between an official who manages his department honestly and efficiently and one who does not.

Mr. YOUNG (Saskatoon): In the report of the Customs inquiry committee last year, at page 3062, I find the following:

Mr. Kennedy moved: That the following clause be added to the report, viz:—

That the name of R. R. Farrow, deputy minister of Customs and Excise, be included in the list of those officers who have been delinquent in their duties, and whose services it is recommended should be dispensed with.

For that motion Messrs. Doucet and Kennedy voted. Those who voted against were Messrs. Bell (Hamilton), Bennett, Donaghy, Goodison, St. Père, and Stevens. I hope the hon. gentleman is proud of the company he was in on that occasion.

Mr. CAHAN: I do not think the reflections of the hon. gentleman will help this matter very much, and so I will pass them over. But