

sist the Government in giving a competent service to the people of Canada, and this legislation has that object in view. If I can succeed in impressing upon honourable gentlemen the necessity of this legislation, I do not propose to be defeated in this purpose by any group of men who belong to the class whom it is proposed to superannuate. I know that opposition has been given to this Bill by some of those who may apprehend being disturbed or retired; but this Bill is so framed that no injustice will be done to any man who has been in the public service. It provides a rate of compensation that will prevent injustice. I say unhesitatingly that it does not permit the Civil Service Commission to exercise a discretion which can in any way prove an injustice to those who may be involved in the investigation which will take place. They will simply be used for the purpose of collating information and presenting it to the Governor in Council; and the Clerk of the Senate, or the Clerk of the House of Commons will be charged with precisely the same duty as the deputy head of any other department. I hope honourable gentlemen will realize that a measure of this kind, which has the efficiency of the public service in view, must not be defeated because some two or three public servants may apprehend that they will come under the class who will be retired.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I think every member of the Senate must agree with my honourable friend in the desire that the public service of Canada shall be made as efficient as possible; and if such conditions exist in it as my honourable friend has depicted to the House, I am sure we would all desire to assist him as far as possible in this matter, because I think we all want abuses which we recognize as having existed in the service for a great many years to be done away with. But I do not think that my honourable friend's remarks have met the point that I made, and which I understand the amendment of my honourable friend from Middleton (Hon. W. B. Ross) will effect, namely, that the Clerk of the Senate should be in a position to deal with the servants of the Senate, and that if he made a recommendation, the Senate should be in a position to say whether any of those servants shall be removed or not.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Then you propose to postpone the operation of this legislation until the Senate meets next session, because the Governor in Council is the Senate, and it is proposed that this legis-

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lation shall come into operation at once; but, as it expires in a year, the Act will have expired by the time the Senate could take action.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Not if I understand that section.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Well, you do not understand it.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The section says:

8. No person shall be retired under the provisions of this Act after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one.

Does my honourable friend say that the next session of the House will not start before the first day of July, 1921?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I say, and I say it advisedly, that such a report as that which my honourable friend aims at could not possibly be prepared until that date. To-morrow is the first of July, 1920. We meet annually, and the probabilities are that next session will be even a longer one than this.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: But I think a report on the staff of the Senate could be made within a comparatively short time. The report would be made by the Clerk as provided in this Bill, and it would be made to the Senate, and they would be in a position to deal with it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Excuse me for interrupting my honourable friend; but does he propose throwing a matter of this kind on the floor of the Senate, as to whether the Senate will sanction the removal of this officer, that officer, or the other? I am surprised that any honourable gentleman could advocate that that kind of business should be done by the Senate of Canada.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The Senate of Canada had that power to deal with their officers and servants.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, and they handed it over, and were very glad to do so.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: They had it until 1908, and I think the members of the Senate are just as capable of dealing with the question as the members of the Government. It seems to me that the practice of the Senate of abrogating its privileges and handing them over to the Government, as it unfortunately has done in the past, should not be continued. I think the honourable members of this House and the members of the other Chamber do not realize the