

*Civil Service Superannuation*

Whether they are for other purposes called "temporary" or not, the purpose of this bill is to give authority to the governor in council to take care of the cases of all those who are in the service of the government for a reasonable length of time. I think there was an order in council passed in 1933 which said that the quota of permanent employees must not be more than eighty per cent of the total number of employees, so that the word "temporary" got a meaning somewhat different from its original meaning. Originally it meant someone who was there just provisionally and was not going to stay, but now it means someone who is there and is going to stay, but has not yet got into the eighty per cent quota. Because of the use of the same word in the superannuation act, the order in council and in other acts, such persons were kept out of the superannuation benefits. The purpose here is to give the governor in council the right to make regulations that will take them in. It was not felt possible to put in a bill all the classes to which it would apply, because it requires an examination of fact. You cannot say that every temporary employee will be under the superannuation act. You have to examine the actual situation; but what is meant is to have something that will enable the governor in council to make regulations and the treasury board to apply them in such a way as will enable the government to satisfy the House of Commons that it is doing the right thing.

Mr. ADAMSON: If the governor in council makes a regulation that the employees of the library shall be classed as permanent employees it can be done in that way?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That can be done by regulation. It will mean that they will be permanent officers, clerks or employees for the purposes of the superannuation act, and it will not have any effect with respect to anything else.

Mr. ADAMSON: That was the nub of it; these employees were not under the superannuation act; they were debarred from seniority and the pension to which they were justly entitled.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I should not like my remarks to be taken as dealing with any specific case in which I have not examined the facts, but the legislation is for the purpose of enabling the government to make and apply regulations in such a way that we can come to the House of Commons and say we have done the right thing by all these servants of the crown.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

Mr. KNOWLES: I would direct the minister's attention to lines 32, 33 and 34 on page 1, which contain this clause:

... but saving all rights and privileges of either house in respect of the control or removal of its officers, clerks and employees;

I should like the minister to give us some explanation as to the meaning of that phrase. I can understand that there may be a few highly placed officers of either house whose removal should lie with the house or the government, but for the most part it seems to me there should be a little more protection than that for the employees of parliament. I have in mind those to whom I referred the other day, the charmen who were dismissed after the election in 1935, although following a fuss in this house they were rehired. It seems to me that people doing this sort of work should have something of the same degree of permanency that civil servants have. Could the minister explain the meaning of that phrase?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: There is a committee to assist His Honour the Speaker in the administration of this house. So far this house has never consented to submit the exercise of its control over its personnel to any but itself; and for the purposes of superannuation they will be deemed permanent if they are put in that class by the governor in council, but that will not give them any greater tenure of office or any more vested interest in their office than they have under the statutes and rules which apply to the Senate and the House of Commons.

Mr. KNOWLES: Then do I understand that in this building the men who operate the elevators are employed by the Department of Public Works and are permanent, while the charmen are employed by the House of Commons and are subject to removal?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I do not know whether the men who do the char work are employed by the House of Commons. I know there are certain persons, from the Clerk of the house down, who are looked upon as servants of the commons, and who are dealt with by His Honour the Speaker in his capacity as head of a department of government.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Medical certificate where not appointed under Civil Service Act.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): An Amendment has been moved by the Minister of Transport, that section 2 of bill