

Colonel, with substantive rank (57 years), if not employed in a colonel's appointment (see Article 40)—

Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and Army Service Corps .....	2,250
Cavalry and Infantry .....	2,100
If employed in a Colonel's appointment (see Article 40) after the 31st December, 1890, and retired at or after the age of 57.	2,500

Pensions for Widows, &c.—Officers.

642. Pensions may be granted to the widows, and compassionate allowances to the children, of commissioned officers of our army dying either on the active or retired list, after the 30th June, 1881, at the following yearly rates, subject to the rules and limitations laid down in Articles 627 to 641—II; and at twice the rate of compassionate allowance to each child, in the event of the children being motherless and in great pecuniary distress, provided the total amount granted to the family does not exceed the limit laid down in Article 640:—

A. Ordinary Pension.

	Pension to widow.	Compassionate allowances to each child.
Colonel, provided he has been employed in a Colonel's appointment if a combatant officer, or in the rank of Colonel if a medical or departmental officer, after the 31st December, 1890; or, if a regimental Colonel, not being a General Officer .....	\$500	\$80
Colonel, not employed as above after the 31st December, 1890; or Lieutenant-Colonel .....	450	80
Major .....	350	70
Captain .....	250	60
Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant....	200	50

There are other pensions given to the intermediate ranks, which I will not take up time to refer to, and there are also certain gratuities granted, but this list which I have read gives a very good idea of the pensions and allowances in the British service. The Minister of Militia no doubt has studied the British pensions perhaps more fully than I have, and with greater ability, and he must have come to the conclusion that there is nothing in these pensions which is at all exorbitant. Indeed, any one who gives the matter study must believe that these pensions are not too much for the men who have so well upheld the honour and credit of Canada, and who are ready to do so in the future. If the minister (Hon. Mr. Borden) brings in a proper pension Bill he will make for himself a name in Canada that he will be proud of in days to come. Those who have studied the question will, I am satisfied, come to the conclusion that it is only a matter of justice to these men that they should have pensions. They are poorly paid; they are men of intelligence; they are men of probity; they are the best class of men you can get in Canada, and surely it

Mr. PRIOR.

is the duty of this country to see that they should be paid equally as well as men holding similar positions in any other branch of His Majesty's service.

Mr. ANDREW THORBURN THOMPSON (Haldimand and Monck). Mr. Speaker, on some future occasion I propose to deal with matters of general interest to the militia of Canada at some length, but to-day I shall be very brief indeed in my remarks in reference to the subject which is now under the notice of the House. I have listened with a great deal of interest to the instructive remarks of the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Hon. Mr. Prior). I am sure that his speech embalmed in 'Hansard'—if I may use that expression—will be one to which we may refer on future occasions as to a mine of valuable information. To my mind, the question is: will a retiring allowance for the permanent force be in the best interests of the people of Canada? To that question I give the most emphatic affirmative. It is now beyond dispute that we must have in Canada a militia; and if we must have a militia, it should be an efficient one. The permanent force is a part of the active militia of Canada; but the reason of its existence is not that it may serve as a garrison, because it is in numbers altogether inadequate to do so, but that it may be a training force for the rest of our active militia. I think I am within the mark when I say that no body of public servants has exerted itself more to the public advantage of this country than the permanent force. The officers of that body since its creation, have devoted themselves with untiring energy to the promotion of the efficiency of the force which they have had to instruct. I remember when the permanent force was first organized; and I have been in the militia long enough to have seen the immense improvement which their work has brought about in the militia of the country. Only ten or twelve years ago, when I first went into camp at Niagara, I remember that almost every corps had to borrow an instructor from the permanent force; but to-day, if you go to that camp and pass from corps to corps, you will find in each one the officers and non-commissioned officers doing the work which formerly they had to employ others to do. That in itself is no small advantage to the country. In what respect does the permanent force differ from the civil service of Canada? There is a marked difference. Owing to the possibility of war at any time, these men must be sound both in body and in mind, and consequently there is an age limit set to their service; and when an officer reaches that age, it matters not how able he may be to perform his task, he must retire. In the civil service no such rule exists, and there is not the same reason for it. The result is that many men still, comparatively speaking, in their prime are cast