

Y GRAB

eral election, where not one man raised his voice in favor of such an increase, have increased the indemnity in the very first session. Hon. gentlemen on this side of the house will find that it will cause them more trouble than it

will cause non. gentlemen on the other side of the house, and I will try, and give them a reason for that. Since we met here last session there have been eight vacancies on the other side of the house, and, with the exception of two deaths, six of these vacancies were caused by hon. gentlemen on the other

caused by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house taking office. When the bill was introduced, the opposition expired, nearly every man on that side of the house will have taken office and gone into retirement, and the members of the opposition will be left to face the bill. I am sure that the hon. gentleman the indemnity bill and will have to take the responsibility for it. It will never pay an opposition to sit down with the government party when such a bill is introduced. I am sure it will place. In that election a lot of fresh Liberals will come before the people of Canada as candidates, and they will actually stand before the people and contend for the support of the people. The wicked Conservatives passed in 1905. I want to tell gentlemen on this side of the house another and a worse feature of that indemnity grab. It bears this character, that it was a bill that was designed by some clever manipulator in the interest of the government and the

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reason of the public indignation over the salary grab, hardly a member of parliament dares to raise his constituents and discuss either the authority of bills or the salary question. There has been a silence in the country through out the recess. Hardly any member has been back in the country, and hardly any member has discussed public questions and in nearly every case where a member has attempted to discuss public questions, instead of discussing the bill, he has discussed his own bill, the discussion turned to asking the member what about the salary grab. So that we have had a recess with very little public discussion; and, in fact, hardly any discussion of a discussion of any public question whatever. We have asked the people to increase our indemnity from \$150,000 to \$250,000 and we do no business. We have asked the people to discuss questions in which the people are interested. The minister of finance is in

and cannot take his place in the house and we are to have a short session. We did we increase our indemnity if we are not prepared to discharge the public business? All the people will say is that. What can we say? So I trust that the bill which the minister of justice introduced this afternoon has a clause in it repealing all these votes. If it has not, I intend to move a

and cannot take his place in the house, and we are to have a short session. Why did we increase our indemnity if we were not prepared to discharge the putative offender? I do not know. But this is that. What can we say? So I trust that the bill which the minority of justice introduced this afternoon has a chance in it repealing all these votes. I am not in favor of the amendment in this house to that effect, and I intend to show the courage of my convictions in regard to it. I think we are called on to consider whether we are called on to give to that one gentleman who has an opportunity in connection with that measure of placing himself on record on this question, the credit which it merits. I am just as much bemischieved, if you use that word, in connection with it as any other member; but I do now see the inequity of the proposition. I do not intend to abide by the verdict of the people in regard to it, and have it repealed to cause it was wrong and because it was not a fair deal with the people who were wronged. I do not intend to say is what I have to say in connection with this matter. I did go to my constituents in connection with it. I gave them my views of it. Substantially they agreed with me. I have been here to-night, and I found that my constituents disapproved of the proposition; and I could not see my way, in view of that, to take the measure in my own name. I do not intend hereafter

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take that money for my own use, because I think the people of this country do not approve of our taking it. When we put the measure thru we did it in defiance of an understanding with the people that we were satisfied with the indemnity as it then was, and that if we were to take more we should have provided that the law should go into force only after this parliament ceased to exist. So I trust that all the expressions of public opinion that have taken place, and all the feeling that has been made on this question, hon. gentlemen will have the courage to repeal that law and to square their hands with the people who sent them here to represent them.

Mr. H. SHERBURN to represent them.

Mr. Haughton Lennox (South Simcoe) said that he did not intend to say anything on this question; but, in view of the somewhat extraordinary position taken by the hon. gentleman—W. W. Macdougall—on this subject, he thought it due to himself as a member of this house to say a word or two. He said that he was not at all surprised that the hon. gentleman himself is the best judge of whether he has been injured or not; but, for my part, he was in my place, and these votes were taken, and I do not believe that I have been blemished or that my honor or credit has been in any way injured in any degree. As regards the proposition that was discussed at that time, the common proverb will tell you that other members of the house did not feel that I was in a position at that moment to discuss it—that is, the question of the right of the hon. gentleman. My reason for not discussing that question at that time was that I was not in the room when Mr. Lennox introduced, and it came to me as an entirely new question.

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It was only discussed on one or two days. It was hurried thru the house in such a way that members could not express their opinion. I believe that they were acting according to the wishes of their constituents. The increase of the indemnity by \$1000 was in my opinion unnecessary. We were elected knowing that the indemnity was \$1000. I believe that remuneration is intended, not as a salary, but as an indemnity, merely enough to pay for the time and trouble and expense. I do not think that with a little economy there would be no member of this house who cannot get thru a session of four or five months or even six months, with \$1500. Under these circumstances I believe

that the increase granted in the dying hours of the session when the members were in the country, was not to be taken to their homes and did not look into it as they otherwise would do, was not what should have been done. At every year since, since the candidates have been one with the other in declaring that they would not return, it is not surprising that if they were returned to the house they would repeal that legislation. We have not heard an expression of opinion from any of our members, not only they are prepared to carry out the pledges to the electors. And if the law is bad, the pensions to the ex-ministers was very much worse. I venture to say that the greatest mistake that the government has made did not understand the pension system to ex-ministers in the motherland. We are likely to have a pension system in the legislation of the mother country, and was said by several hon. gentlemen that the pension system in the motherland was similar to that in England. We had not time to examine into that, but we find now that the

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