

carriers to come in under the new scheme therein provided, or to remain under the old law. The time in which to exercise that option expired within two months after the passage of that Bill. Some of the letter-carriers desired after it was too late to exercise that option, and last year parliament passed an Act extending the time. That time has expired, and now a considerable number of letter-carriers have signified their desire to avail themselves of the provisions of the law and come in under the Act of 1902. This is giving them three months further time.

Mr. CLARKE. What will be the position of these men who were in the service prior to 1897 if they come in under this Act? Under this Act the sum that stands to their credit in the superannuation account will be passed over to another account, and they will get that sum with interest at five per cent on leaving the service; but when they leave or are discharged there is no superannuation beyond the amount at their credit. What advantage is it to these men to come under this Act? Their position at present is such that when they retire they receive superannuation, which continues as long as they live, but under my hon. friend's Act they will not. Is that right?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. That is wrong. The Act is in the following words:

Such election shall not affect his rights or position under the Civil Service Superannuation Act or Retirement Act of 1898.

Mr. CLARKE. Will they still continue paying into the superannuation fund the same percentage of their wages that they do now, and will they receive the same superannuation after they have been retired?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The language of the statute is quite plain: 'Such election shall not affect their rights or position under the Civil Service Superannuation Act or retirement Act of 1898.'

Mr. CLARKE. I do not quite understand. Under the civil service law which existed when they entered the post office as letter-carriers, they contributed so much per month to the superannuation fund, and after their services were dispensed with they got so much per annum during the balance of their lives. Will the fact that they take advantage of the present Act deprive them of their superannuation when they leave the service?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. It is not for me to say what the law means. I have read the hon. gentleman the statute, and I will pass the Act over to him. It is to be found in the statutes of 1902.

Mr. PUTTEE. Has any kind of pressure been exercised on the men to get them to come in under this Act?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Not the slightest. The department is not interested one way or the other. Some carriers have petitioned for this privilege and the department has simply acceded to their request. If some letter-carriers had not had themselves prejudiced, they would long since have availed themselves of the advantages of this Act. Under the old law the salary of a letter-carrier was \$600, but under the present Act he can attain \$725 a year, and in addition have some other advantages.

Mr. PUTTEE. Under the old law a letter-carrier was entitled, in case of sickness, to his pay, and under the new Act he is not.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. He is not entitled to it under the old law.

Mr. PUTTEE. Under the Civil Service Act he was.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. No.

Mr. PUTTEE. As a matter of fact he does get it.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. He may or may not.

Mr. PUTTEE. They are fearful that their sick-pay is going to be stopped, and I do not know whether that would be looked upon as pressure to induce them to come under the new Act. Is the rumour right that sick-pay will be stopped?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. There is not the slightest pressure whatever. Some persons have been telling some letter-carriers that this Act is not to their advantage. If they choose to follow that advice, they are perfectly at liberty to do so. The department is not in the slightest degree concerned. As for sick-pay, it is entirely an error to suppose that under the law, civil servants are entitled to pay when absent from duty, be the cause what it may, except when enjoying their holidays. If there is one class who, it is very desirable, should respond to the duty call, it is the letter-carriers, and there must be proper pressure put on them to secure their reporting for duty in the morning. To allow them to imagine themselves indisposed and absent themselves, when they could perform their duty, is against the public interest. Many a man, able to do his work, may imagine himself unfit if he thinks his pay is not going to stop. It is entirely a mistaken idea to suppose that either the letter-carriers or anybody else receive their pay when not doing their work. The carriers, when at their maximum, are paid \$2.25 a day and may obtain a bonus of \$20 a year, totally \$725 a year. In addition they are allowed two weeks holidays and are given their uniforms winter and summer. It is first-class pay for men in that walk of life, and it is enticing to the service a very large number of people who are supposed