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SUPERANNUATION

Report of Special Committee, Civil Service Association of Ottawa, June, 1915

The committee to which was referred the question of considering and reporting upon (1) the desirability, and (2) the feasibility of devising some scheme of Superannuation for the Service which would make more adequate and satisfactory provision than is afforded by the White Bill of 1914 for those appointed to the Service before that Bill comes into force, and specially for those who, though appointed permanently under the Act of 1908, had been continuously employed for many years prior to that date, in a so-called temporary capacity, beg leave to report as follows:

From the most reliable statistics obtainable, your committee find that at the present time there are about 45,000 persons holding so-called permanent positions in the Public Service of Canada.

For the purpose of Superannuation these persons may be divided into three classes, as follows:

(1) Those who are already provided with a more or less adequate Retiring or Superannuation system, such as the residue of the subscribers under the Superannuation Act repealed in 1898, the R.N.W. Mounted Police, the Permanent Militia, and the Government Railway employees, numbering in all about 20,000 persons.

(2) Those who are provided with a partial, though far from satisfactory or adequate system, under the provisions of the Retirement Fund established in 1898, and numbering approximately 11,000 persons; and

(3) The remainder, numbering

some 12,000 to 15,000 persons, including a certain number in the Inside Service, who are absolutely unprovided for by any system of Superannuation whatsoever.

As regards the applicability of the White Bill of 1914 to the foregoing classes of persons, while the provisions of that Bill will automatically apply to every person appointed to a permanent position in the Public Service, after it comes into force, provided that such person is under fifty years of age at date of appointment, they will not apply to any person appointed before that Bill comes into force, unless such person is a contributor under the Superannuation Act repealed in 1898, or to the Retirement Fund established in that year; so that the persons included in Class (3) will not be in any way benefited by the White Bill, while persons appointed to similar positions after that Bill comes into force will have the full benefit of its provisions.

After considerable enquiry your committee have formed the opinion that of those who are now contributing under the Superannuation Act repealed in 1898, probably not one, and of those mentioned in Class (2) (Retirement Fund), comparatively few, possibly 25 per cent., will take advantage of the provisions of the White Bill for the reasons that, as regards those under the old Superannuation system, many are ineligible by reason of the fact that they have completed their period of contributions to that system, and those who are eligible are reasonably satisfied