

my hon. friend has just pointed out. The sub-section of section 8 of the Act further provides :

" Nothing herein contained shall be understood as impairing or affecting the right of the Governor in Council to dismiss or remove any person from the Civil Service."

To put the Auditor General under the Superannuation Act might give the Government right to dismiss him.

Mr. CASEY. If the Government merely wish to provide a retiring allowance to the Auditor General, I think they can do it in the same way as is done in the case of judges, who are only removable, like the Auditor General, by an address of both Houses of Parliament. The very usefulness of an Auditor General at all depends on his being utterly independent of the Government ; and I do not remember, although I was in the House at the time, that any of the hon. gentlemen opposite raised the slightest objection to the appointment of the Auditor General under these conditions ; and the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance this evening has been such as to lead us to believe that he approves of the Act under which the Auditor General was appointed, and does not wish to make him any less independent of the Government than he is now.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CASEY. I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman say "hear, hear," and after that declaration he will doubtless say that it is more fitting to provide for the retiring allowance of the Auditor General in some other manner, and not to bring him under the control of the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I can assure hon. gentlemen opposite that the last thing that the Government had in view in this Bill, was to do anything that should enable us to interfere in the slightest degree with the position Parliament has given to the Auditor General. I quite concur in the views expressed by hon. gentlemen opposite that the value of this officer to a very great extent depends on the position he holds as an officer of Parliament, and the sole object we had in view in giving the benefit of the Superannuation Act, was to give a deserving officer the privileges which that Act would confer. But I do see a point in what has been stated by hon. gentlemen opposite, that this involves the contingency of the power of removal of the officer by the action of the Government, which certainly was not the intention. I will leave the clause over for such amendment as will enable us entirely to avoid any such thing.

Mr. WRIGHT. I have much pleasure in congratulating the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government on this act of justice to a most able officer. The hon. Minister of Finance will remember that I urged this increase of salary upon him one or two years ago. Although I have always differed politically from Mr. Macdougall, our excellent Auditor General, I have always observed that he is one of the most efficient officers we have in the public service, and I again thank the Government for this somewhat tardy act of recognition of his services.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

House resolved itself into Committee to consider the following resolution :

That the salary of the Auditor General of Canada shall be four thousand dollars per annum, and that he shall be subject to the provisions of the " Civil Service Superannuation Act."

(In the Committee.)

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It probably would meet the case if we were to move that section 8 of the Superannuation Act should not apply. That gives the benefit of the Act to the officer, and takes away the power of compulsory retirement.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). If the hon. gentleman will look at the Act, providing for retiring allowances for the judges, he might make a similar provision in this case. Let him make no allusion to the Superannuation Act, and there will be no difficulty or misunderstanding.

Mr. BOWELL. If you adopt that plan, you relieve the Auditor General from the monthly payment of the superannuation fund, and place him in the same position as a judge. I understand a judge does not pay anything out of his salary towards the fund out of which he gets superannuation.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The object we have in giving him the benefit of the Superannuation Act, is to confer its advantages upon him, and I meet the objection hon. gentlemen opposite have raised by the provision that this portion of the Superannuation Act shall not apply.

Mr. WELDON (St. John). The proper course would be to give the Auditor General the same position as a judge, and let him, on retiring, get fifteen years. No doubt he would be free from paying to the superannuation fund.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman must see that will not do. There is a special law for judges. After fifteen years, they may ask to be pensioned off, and their pension amounts to two-thirds of their salary ; but in the Civil Service, after thirty-five years, the officers are entitled to 70 per cent. of their salary. It would not do to place the Auditor General in a different position in this respect from the other officers of the service. The hon. the Minister of Finance has admitted that it is not the intention of the Government to interfere with the Act of Parliament, which made the Auditor General a special officer under the control of both Houses, and I think therefore that the clause may be well amended by putting this officer under the Civil Service Act as regards the superannuation. He should contribute to the fund the same as any other civil officer.

Mr. LAURIER. There are two objects to be attained with regard to this officer : First, he must be kept independent of the Government. We all agree upon that point, and then we also agree on the second point that he should be provided a retiring allowance. He will stand in a perfectly unique position. There will not be a parallel in the service to his case, and, therefore, there is no reason why we should not make a special law to enact that he will contribute to the Civil Service fund in the same way as other officers, and still not be under the control of the Government with regard to superannuation. A special law should be devised. It is just as much against the spirit of the Act respecting the Auditor General that the Government of the day should be entitled to reward him, as that they should be enabled to punish him. Section 8, which the hon. the Finance Minister suggests might be left out, provides that, under certain circumstances, the Government could compel the Auditor General to retire. Section 4 of the Act places it within the power of the Governor in Council to reward civil servants.

" The Governor in Council may, in the case of any person who entered the Civil Service after the age of thirty years, as being possessed of some peculiar professional or other qualifications or attainments required for the office to which he was appointed, and not ordinarily to be acquired in the public service, and to the actual number of years' service of such person, such further number of years not exceeding ten, as is considered equitable for reasons stated in the Order in Council made in the case."

It is not right that the Auditor General should be dependent on the Governor in Council to add years to his time of service. Section 5 provides the superannuation of every officer shall be preceded by an enquiry by the Treasury Board. Who will report as to whether it should take place or not ? That is not a desirable position in which to place the Audi-