

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Then service seems to count for little. The man who enters the service can get the benefit of the Superannuation Act, while those who have given twenty or twenty-five years of good, faithful service cannot.

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend knows they are in exactly the same position as other members of the service. They have to pay certain amounts if they want to come under the act. The other employees are doing that, and I do not see how we can dispense with it in their case.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I know they do, but it strikes severely upon those who have now just four or five years to complete their service before they could retire with a gratuity.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I agree with that.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I think they are so few the government could consider some change in the act or some favourable agreement with them. Otherwise, one or
1 p.m. two will share the fate of Mr. Berrigan who had earned \$1,800. If he had been informed that his illness was serious, he could have retired and secured the \$1,800 which he had faithfully earned. It was his, but just by a little mishap his widow will lose \$1,800.

The other case I want to refer to is that of a man who had served his whole time, Mr. Young, and who, when his papers were going through for his resignation, died and nothing was done. This is a very similar case.

Mr. LAPOINTE: How long ago is that?

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): Some years ago.

Mr. LAPOINTE: About fifteen years ago, I understand. My hon. friend may be assured that I will take every word he has said into consideration and discuss with the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) the possibility of an amendment to the act.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I notice all excepting one of the penitentiaries are increasing their working expenses. What is the reason?

Mr. LAPOINTE: It is for remodelling of the buildings. During the war this had been neglected.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How is the penitentiary population compared with that of previous years?

[Mr Lapointe.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: There are 2,345 inmates in the penitentiaries at this time. At the end of the fiscal year, 1924, there were 2,373. There is a decrease of 28.

Item agreed to.

To pay a compassionate allowance to the children of the late John L. Berrigan, guard, Kingston penitentiary, \$905.

To increase the pension of William Patton, ex-guard, Kingston penitentiary, to \$47 per month, \$312.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I appeal again to the minister. This man Berrigan should get a little better treatment than that. He should have known that he could not recover and he should have been permitted to resign. In that case he would have had \$1,800.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Berrigan died suddenly on May 24. He had not resigned his position at the time. Really, what we are giving is by way of a compassionate allowance. Under the law we would not be bound to give anything. His children are grown up. I think my hon. friend will agree with me as to that. I understand the youngest is nineteen years old.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I quite agree with that, but Berrigan did not die suddenly. He was sick long enough to know he could not recover. Charity applies in this case. Berrigan had earned his \$1,800 and he had also been injured.

Mr. LAPOINTE: We are doing pretty well by giving this compassionate allowance. There was no obligation to ask him to resign.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): What was the cause of his death?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Pneumonia, I understand. He got three months' salary apart from this allowance.

Item agreed to.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police—salaries and contingencies, \$46,980.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How many provinces are the police used in now?

Mr. LAPOINTE: In all the provinces.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The government has seen a new light on that subject.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I do not know whether I should say it, but I am free to admit I have come to learn that they are doing a splendid work.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Have the officers of the police military rank at the present time?