

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Robertson in the Chair.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Subsection 2 of section 10 of the Act reads as follows:

No contributor shall be retained in the Civil Service beyond the age of seventy years; provided, however, that if the deputy head of any department reports, within three months after the coming into force of this Act, in respect of any contributor in such department who, whether before or after the coming into force of this Act, attains the age of seventy years, or not less than thirty days before the attainment of the said age by any contributor, that on account of his peculiar efficiency and fitness for his position the continuance in office of such contributor beyond the said age is in the public interest. . . .

One of the leading Civil Servants here has represented to me that the provisions of this subsection are unreasonable. My honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) is having the Act amended by extending to two years the time in which a Civil Servant may elect to become a contributor to the Superannuation Fund. It has been suggested to me that we ought to amend subsection 2 of section 10 by extending the period in which the Deputy Head of a Department may recommend the Civil Servant's continuance in office. As the subsection makes provision for the retention of a contributor up to the age of seventy-five, it would not be unreasonable to say that the Deputy Head of the Department should have the right to recommend his retention within two years after the coming into force of the Act, which was in 1924.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That would give another year.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The period was limited to three months.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It was limited to the three months, but in the latter part of the subsection the time mentioned is thirty days. That is a very short period for a man to make preparations to retire from the Public Service. Inasmuch as the matter of making the recommendation rests with the Deputy Head, it seems to me that the public interest cannot possibly suffer if the time is extended. The amendment has been submitted to me, and I will hand it to the Chairman.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It looks somewhat involved. The period allowed has expired. May I suggest to my honourable friend that, if no interests will suffer, we might treat this proposed amendment as we treated the last Bill. It could be taken up at another time. I confess that I cannot grasp its exact purport.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I cannot speak with confidence on it. I must confess I am not familiar with the intricacies of this Act. The amendment can be moved on the third reading. In the meantime my honourable friend may make inquiries as to whether this is a desirable amendment or not.

The preamble and the title were agreed to.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

RAILWAY EXPENDITURE

CONDUCT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Honourable gentlemen, there is a small matter that I would like to call to the attention of the House. There seems to be some misunderstanding in another place as to the reason why our Special Committee to inquire into railway expenditure sat in camera and why we do not report the evidence. When that Committee was appointed and constituted I think it was thoroughly understood by all its members that the subject to be dealt with was very important and very large; and, as I understand it, the Committee determined that instead of going into small details they would deal with the larger issue. In order to do that, we determined that it would be wise to sit in camera and not report the evidence. We have explained our reasons for that in the reports itself, which perhaps ought to be sufficient for people who wish to understand it.

Last night I explained again that if a man were making a statement on the railway situation, which is a very complicated one, with the knowledge that his statement would be published and discussed all over the country, he would find it necessary, in order to protect himself, to make reservations, explanations, and distinct qualifications which, from the point of view of the Committee, would in themselves be relatively unimportant. What we wanted to do was to get at the pith and the heart of the railway situation, and not at the small details. For that reason the Committee concluded that we would sit in camera, and that there would be no report of the evidence. I assume full responsibility for that, so far as one man can assume responsi-