

vidual grantees, present as well as future, to make a declaration that the annuity is necessary for the due maintenance of his station in life. If this rumor should prove to be well founded, much of what has been said above will not be applicable to such a proposal, and possibly the proposal itself would not from their standpoint, be objected to by the persons to whom the act now applies. But, however this may be, from one important point of view, the point of view of Parliament itself, the establishing of a dangerous precedent, when no precedent for such legislation can, up to this moment, be found, may be well and wisely objected to. The principle is wrong of clogging a grant now in actual enjoyment by its beneficiaries by a super-added condition which may nullify the grant altogether, and the amendment, therefore, would be open to the gravest criticism.

The undersigned recalls a circumstance which occurred some few years ago in the Imperial Parliament—very much in point in the present instance—which will be found in the

DEBATES AND OFFICIAL PAPERS

in the House of Commons. It was objected that several ex-ministers of the Crown continued to receive a pension, notwithstanding the fact was public and notorious that they had become wealthy since the annuity was allowed them, having come into very large estates.

It was contended that the act should be so amended as to require the declaration above mentioned to be annually made, but this proposal was not entertained by Parliament, and was regarded as being obnoxious to the principle the undersigned has just referred to.

No possible objection could be taken if Parliament should so decide to amend the act in the sense referred to, but excluding the present recipients from the operation of such amending act, but to that extent only, the undersigned respectfully submits to Your Excellency-in-Council should any amendment in the law be made.

In conclusion, your memorialist desires to assure Your Excellency that he has chosen this method of inviting the thoughtful attention of your ministers to the subject in question as being less likely to revive and renew the agitation of October and November last, and as being much less embarrassing to your Government than were he to open up a newspaper discussion by presenting these views in the public press.