

he is unmarried and does not marry during his period of service, or if his wife predeceases him, the money may be returned at a rate of interest which may be fixed, just as insurance companies under certain forms of annuities provide for the repayment of the money paid in.

I make this statement because this is a matter which has engaged my attention on more than one occasion and which necessitated my saying to the minister last year how strongly I felt about a given case which involved great hardship and which was almost a public scandal, but I could not bring myself to depart from what I believe to be a principle even though the person concerned was the widow of one of the most eminent citizens of the country.

Mr. COOTE: I have only one further word to add. The contribution of these men in many cases was the contribution of their lives in the carrying out of their very arduous duties, and these widows have been left. In any case I do not believe there was anything in the act at that time which would have permitted these men to make a monetary contribution, so there was no way open to them to provide for a pension to their widows.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The leader of the opposition has stressed the idea of a contract. As a matter of fact it is much easier for judges and those in the higher positions of the civil service to secure favourable contracts than it is for the lower classes to do so, with the result that usually pension schemes are provided for those occupying the higher positions long before they are provided for those in subordinate occupations. I think that is true, and furthermore even when it comes to matters of relief the same thing applies. Last year estimates were presented in this house providing for comparatively large amounts in the way of compassionate allowances to the widows of those who had occupied comparatively high positions. Some of us then had to take the position that it was not fair to grant these allowances to those people without granting it to these others. If any deviation is to be made from this general idea it does seem to me that some provision should be made for the widows of those who, in their lifetime, were not in a position to set aside amounts to provide for their dependents.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

[Mr. Bennett.]

NATIONAL PARKS

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior) moved the second reading of Bill No. 135, respecting national parks.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Mr. Chairman, when the bill was introduced the other day I promised to make a short statement with respect to it, and I shall confine myself to the new provisions of the bill. This bill changes the name of the Rocky Mountain park to Banff park; it has to do with the boundaries of the parks mentioned in the schedule and provides that in future all parks will be known as national parks of Canada. Formerly additions could be made to parks, or new parks created, by order in council. This will not be possible after the passing of this act; all parks and additions to parks will have to be created by act of parliament. The same will apply to deletions from the parks. Perhaps the most important provision of the new bill is that which takes away from the control of the department and the minister the right to grant leases for commercial purposes. Those will have to be secured by the consent of parliament. The other sections provide for regulations for the purpose of regulating and operating the parks under the control of the Department of the Interior.

Section 11 deals with historic sites. Very frequently small areas of ground are set apart for the purpose of commemorating some national, historical event, and these areas will be under the control of a board appointed for this purpose which decides where the monuments or landmarks shall be set up, and what inscriptions shall be placed thereon for the purpose of preserving them from a historical standpoint.

Mr. ADSHEAD: The withdrawal of certain areas from the parks for commercial purposes, say for hydro-electric purposes, would have to be by a special act of parliament?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The addition to as well as the deletion from any park will be by an act of parliament.

Section agreed to.

Section 2 agreed to.

On section 3—Existing parks.

Mr. COOTE: What are the locations of the parks mentioned in the second paragraph of this section?