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guide insurance companies. Then, if the system is to be based upon these tables, the premiums should be the same. I cannot conceive, from the statement of the hon. gentleman, that the premiums are to be less than what are charged by other companies. The hon. gentleman has given us no figures to show where the economy comes in; and if there is to be an economy for the Civil Servants, it is to be at the expense of the Government, and I do not see why we should bear the expense. I submit that the whole system of superannuation is a vicious one; but, as we have discussed that already, I will not renew the discussion. The session is so far advanced that I cannot offer opposition to the Bill, which I am sure, in any event, the majority with its usual leniency would adopt as well as any other piece of legislation introduced by the Government.

Hon. G. E. Foster said he had not gone into figures, but would give some statistics from existing Companies, which he did, and in reply to Mr. Davies (P.E.I.) said: This Act, in the first place, is meant as a companion Act to the one passed yesterday. The persons who come in after the passage of these two Acts, come in under a system of superannuation, and also under a system of insurance. The superannuation they will pay is 3½ per cent. and 3, and the insurance they get is on the lines laid down here. It would be manifestly unfair to allow persons now in the service, and who pay only 2 per cent. into the superannuation fund, to have the advantage of the second provision; so that they are debarred from being insured under this insurance scheme; but there is a provision by which, if they raise the abatement which they pay to the superannuation fund, they may become eligible for insurance under this scheme. This, as I explained to my hon. friend, would be valuable, on business principles, to a very few of the present civil servants. The young men might choose to accept it, but those who have been for a long time in the service would not find it profitable to take it.

MR. CASEY said.—This Bill involves a false principle. I do not believe that the Government should go into the insurance business for the benefit of members of the Civil Service. The hon. Minister has explained that the cost of management is not provided for, and that he proposes to insure the civil servants at the net cost of insurance, without the loading which, as he knows, is put upon insurance premiums in ordinary insurance companies. Now, it seems to me that civil servants ought to be put upon the same platform as other people, and allowed to make such provision for their families in case of death as they please, and I think that, when the Government undertakes to insure these people for less than the ordinary rate, they are doing what it is not the business of the Government to do. Therefore, I object to the whole scheme.

In Committee the bill was severely handled.

MR. DAVIES (P.E.I.) said,—I was just going to say that that is the way the public are not fairly treated in this matter. There is no doubt that you are providing a system of insurance, the best in the world for these civil servants, a lower rate, absolute security, and not charging them anything for expenses of management. Past experience teaches us that you will not go on two or three years before you have quite a staff of officers for this purpose. You will not get a man to write out a policy without extra pay, unless the department is different from other departments, and I am pleased to say that the Department of the Minister of Finance is in a great many respects an example for the other departments.

HON. G. E. FOSTER. I will see that it is done as long as I am there.

Finally the bill was reported.

In a private letter to the editor of a magazine the editor of the Billville Banner describes Chaucer as "the most talented dialect writer of his age."

### A Minister Sold.

Right Honourable Hugh Childers was one of the ministers who was always wanting to economize Government labor. On one occasion he was just quitting his office, and had reached the ground floor, when he suddenly recollected that he had a note to write, and turned into the first room he saw open. A young fellow stood there in front of the fire warming his back, and evidently enjoying, for the time, immunity from anything like labor. Mr. Childers, to whom anything approaching idleness acted like a red rag to a bull, enquired how the young man employed his time, and how much of it was occupied with the work of the department. The reply was, "Not very fully, perhaps four days a week would be quite enough for all I have to do." Mr. Childers then informed the young man who he was, and told him to expect to hear of more work being provided for him, so as to fully occupy his time. The War Secretary was just leaving, when the youth, who had taken the whole lecture with charming coolness, said, "As you have given me your name I should like in return to tell you mine. I am Mr. Dent, the Clockmaker's assistant, and just come here once a week to wind up the clock. I am only resting myself for a bit."

### Singular Plurals.

Remember though box in the plural makes boxes,  
The plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes;  
And remember, tho' fleece in the plural is fleeces,  
The plural of goose is not geoses or geeses;  
And remember, though house in the plural is houses,  
The plural of mouse should be mice and not mouses;  
Mouse it is true in the plural is mice,  
But the plural of house is houses not hices;  
And foot it is true in the plural is feet,  
But the plural of root should be roots and not reet.

ANON

Pay your money, and take your choice.—Bridget, looking at one of Raphael's pictures—"Whats thim marm?" Mrs. Doteonart—"Those are cherubs" Bridget—"Cherubs is it? Mary Ann says as how they was bats, and I says twins, barrin the wings."

APPRECIATION.—Two sailors and a tame parrot went to see the Imperial Japanese Troupe at Tokio, Japan. The sailors were lost in admiration, and frequently ejaculated, "Now isn't that clever." Wonder what he will do next?" Poll said nothing but thought the more. Presently one of the Japs in doing the trick of keeping several bamboes, lighted at each end, going in the air at once, had his attention drawn to something in the audience, and missed one of his sticks. The blazing cane flew through the air, alighting on a pile of fireworks, bombs, etc. A terrific explosion followed, blowing off the roof and shattering the walls. The parrot was blown through the roof, and alighted about four hundred yards away, minus one eye and his tail feathers. As he came down with a heavy flop he shrieked out, "Now isn't that clever; I wonder what he'll do next?"

Mr. Willimott, of the Geological Survey, left last week for Chicago to join Dr. Seiwyn's staff at the World's Fair.

The Civil Service Review has received an application for copies of the paper from the Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, London, England. In the newsroom of this institution, nearly three hundred colonial periodicals and newspapers are regularly filed for reference.