

of the Acts relating to superannuation. The amendments made by the Bill have been rendered necessary by the provision of the Civil Service Act of 1882, by which that Act was applied to a limited number of officials. There are only one or two new sections in the Bill, among them are the following:—

"All officers, clerks and employes in or under the several Departments of the Executive Government who are paid a yearly salary, and to whom 'The Canada Civil Service Act, 1882,' applies, and who in case they were or are appointed after the coming into force of that Act were or are appointed in conformity with its provisions.

"All such officers, clerks and employes of the second or outside division of the Civil Service, to whom 'The Canada Civil Service Act, 1882,' does not apply, and who are employed in an established capacity, and paid a yearly salary as the Governor in Council may, from time to time, designate."

Under the Act of 1882, so far as the outside service was concerned, it limited the officials to whom the Act should apply to the officers of the Customs, Excise and Post Office Departments; and it was, therefore, necessary to amend the Act in order to place the service generally under its operation. There is one provision to which the hon. leader of the Opposition took exception, and at the time I was inclined to agree with him that the objection was a sound one. I refer to the section reserving to parties their rights when a repealing Act is introduced. Such a clause is usually inserted; but as it may possibly turn out that a party superannuated was not legally superannuated, after consultation with the Minister of Justice I have decided not to press that clause if the hon. gentleman thinks it objectionable.

Mr. McMULLEN. When this Bill was introduced, the hon. gentleman promised to give us some information with regard to the operations of the Act, so far as the finances of the country are concerned. The Civil Service Board set out that the country was saving money by the Act, and the hon. gentleman undertook to give us some information on this point.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It is exceedingly difficult to give definite or reliable information on this point. The hon. leader of the Opposition took some exception to the calculations made in the report of the Civil Service, and I may say that when I first read these calculations I was somewhat inclined to think that they were exaggerated. But in looking into the matter carefully, I am of opinion that though their calculations may not turn out entirely correct, they will be so to a great extent. Take the port of St. John, for example: There were three persons superannuated there within the last three or four years. Their average salary was \$1,000 each. The average superannuation, perhaps, amounts to \$1,500. Only one person was appointed to fill the position of the assistant statistical clerk, who had a salary of \$1,000, and they were superannuated at an average of about \$500 a year. The result was, that while there appears to be an increased charge made on the revenues of the country of \$1,500 there was really a saving of \$1,100 to the Treasury by that operation, because the salaries which were saved amounted to \$3,000, less \$400 paid to a junior clerk. It may be said that those men would not have been retained but for the Civil Service Act; but I appeal to the House to say whether three aged men who were not capable of doing work should be turned out on the world without a dollar. The result would have been that they would have been retained in office, and other persons would have been employed to do their work. Therefore, in that particular case, while there appears to be an addition of some \$1,500 to the Civil Service fund, there is an absolute saving of \$1,100. The hon. leader of the Opposition says the calculation is based on the supposition that the men shall live forever. I do not quite see that that is the result of the calculation, but it is exceedingly difficult to make an estimate of this kind, because you have to estimate how long they are likely to continue to draw from this sum. It has been sug-

Sir LEONARD TILLEY.

gested that in future, when a person is superannuated, it should be stated on the face of the paper whether the office is to be filled up or not, and in that way it might be ascertained exactly what was saved and what was lost by the change. The statements of payments made to the Superannuation Fund by the Civil Service, and of the amounts paid to them, do not give a correct idea of what the country loses and the Treasury pays under the operation of the Civil Service Act. To make a definite calculation of the matter is exceeding difficult, in fact it is impossible. While I doubt very much the correctness of the statement made by the Civil Service Commissioners, I must say, after looking more closely into it, there is more ground for the calculations they made than I had supposed on giving it a cursory examination.

Mr. McMULLEN. This Superannuation Act is a matter that I think deserves the serious consideration of the House. It has now been in existence in this country for about twelve years. I have looked carefully into the operations of the Act, and I find that last year there were on the list of persons who had been superannuated 394 names, and this year the number had increased to 406. The sum paid out last year on account of superannuation was \$160,319.95, and the amount to be paid out during the current year, according to the return brought down to the House on the 23rd of February, is \$189,978.98, an increase of \$29,658.03. This is more than double the increase that has taken place during any year since the inception of this Act, and I hold that it is the duty of this House to seriously consider whether it is wise, in the interest of the country, to continue this system in force, or whether it would not be better to abolish it entirely, and adopt something else that would be fairer to the country and juster to the Civil Service. I have looked carefully into the list, and I find that fifteen of the number served an average of six years and six months, and in the fixing of their retiring allowance they have had added to their time eight years and nine months.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Under the Superannuation Act they cannot be superannuated unless they have served ten years.

Mr. McMULLEN. There are some who have served only three years, and those fifteen only served an average of six and one-half years each.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. That cannot be.

Mr. McMULLEN. I have gone carefully over the list and any hon. gentleman who goes over it will find that my calculation is correct. In the fixing of their retiring allowance they have also had eight and one-third years added to their time of service.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. McMULLEN. Hon. members may challenge the statement I make; but until they examine the list, and are prepared to say that my statement is wrong, they had better, in the meantime, accept it. The total amount contributed to the fund by the fifteen I have referred to, is \$2,944.01, during the time they were in the service of the Government; and the sum they draw annually from the fund is \$6,209.54. During the entire time those fifteen men were in the service of the country, they did not contribute sufficient to pay one-half year's allowance of the amount they draw. I contend, therefore, that it is unjust that those who are placed on the superannuation list should be permitted to draw a sum not proportionate to the number of years they have served, but largely in excess of it, by the addition of a number of years. There are some cases in which ten years have been added. The total number of years that have been added to the service of the superannuated servants now on the retired list, is 413. The average sum drawn annually by each person on the superannuation