

the original Superannuation Bill was introduced in the House of Commons in 1870, I was one of those who opposed the measure. It is not necessary for me to go into my reasons for opposing it. The law is on the Statute-book at present, and it would be a great hardship, particularly to those who are now in the service, to interfere with their positions. Neither does this Bill propose to interfere with the status of the present civil servants. They will remain as they have been in the past, and will receive the same advantages that they enjoy under the present law. It is proposed that any party entering the service after the age of forty-five years shall not be entitled to superannuation, and shall not be required to contribute to the superannuation fund. It is proposed by the present Bill to make the abatement three and a half per cent on all salaries over \$600, and three per cent on salaries under \$600, so that persons entering the service now will know precisely what they may expect. This sum will be deposited to the credit of the Receiver-General, and the officials paying into the fund will receive on those investments 6 per cent. That is, the Government propose to add to the sum which they pay in 2 per cent more than what might be considered the rate at which a Government could borrow money, or in other words, it is a contribution from the public exchequer to the extent of 2 per cent in order to create a fund which would be sufficient to meet the requirements that would be made upon it. The House will understand—if I have not made it plain I trust attention will be called to it—that the abatement is increased. That abatement will be placed to the credit of the fund out of which the superannuation payments are made. In order to make ends meet, if I may use that expression, it will be necessary for the country to contribute an additional 2 per cent, making the interest allowable 6 per cent by which it is believed that in about 25 years the fund will be self-sustaining. Calculations show that the fund then at the credit of the Civil Service Superannuation Fund will amount to about \$2,000,000. That being the case, then the necessity of drawing upon the general funds of the country in order to meet the requirements of the Bill will have disappeared. I have almost a deluge of statistics which I do not suppose the House desires to be troubled with. I have given as short and as clear an exposi-

tion of the proposition that is now before the House as I could well do in the short space that I allotted to myself at this period of the session. I am inclined to the opinion that although the Bill met with a good deal of opposition in the other branch of Parliament, still the great majority came to the conclusion that the proposition of the Government was in the interest of the civil servants and certainly in the interests of the revenue of the country.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—Is this increased abatement compulsory upon all who are now in the Civil Service, or only on those who enter it hereafter?

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—It is compulsory on all civil servants at the present moment. It will be equally compulsory on all civil servants who enter the service, under the age of 45, in the future, only at a higher rate.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I never read the debates of the House of Commons and so I dare say I have lost a great deal, but I think the hon. gentleman's explanation, although not very long, was clear enough and gives us a very fair idea of the principle of the Bill. I may say, without pledging myself as to details, I feel, as one member of the House, that the Bill is a step in the right direction. I have always felt that it was a crying injustice—at any rate a very grave misfortune—that the faithful public servant who dies in the service of the state after serving it for thirty or thirty-five years dies a pauper, unless he has managed to save money, and leaves his wife and children nothing. I have always felt that some system of state insurance like this was preferable to the old system of superannuation.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—This Bill does not deal with life insurance, does it?

Hon. Mr. POWER—This Bill, as I understand it, goes with another Bill, and the result of the additional deduction which is made on account of the superannuation fund is that any civil servant who pays this increased deduction from his salary is entitled to a life insurance—Is not that the case? That is, the family would be entitled to so much after his death.