

Supplementary Order Paper.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, the 24th Day of January, 1922.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT BILL.

The Right Hon. Mr. MASSEY, in Committee, to move the following amendments:—

Clause 2: To add to paragraph (*j*) the following words: "except as may be otherwise provided pursuant to subsection *two* hereof."

Clause 2: To add the following as subclause *two*:—

(2.) If the Minister of Finance is satisfied that the terms of any agreement or arrangement entered into between the General Manager of Railways, on behalf of the Minister of Railways, and any society or association of employees of the Second Division of the Government Railways Department would effect a reduction of expenditure in respect of the salaries or wages of those employees not less than the reduction that would be effected therein by this Act, he may, by order in writing, exclude the members of such society or association from the operation of this Act. Any such order may be at any time revoked or cancelled, and thereupon the members of the society or association shall again become subject to this Act, save that in any such case, in computing the reduction to be made at any time from the rate of remuneration of any such member, all reductions effected pursuant to the terms of any agreement or arrangement as aforesaid shall be taken into account.

Clause 6, subclause (1): To omit subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (*b*), and substitute the following subparagraphs:—

(i.) In the case of persons not paid at an hourly or a daily rate, the rate of reduction shall be *ten* pounds per annum, increased by *five* pounds per annum in cases where such rate of remuneration exceeded one hundred and ninety pounds per annum; by a further *five* pounds per annum where such rate exceeded three hundred and twenty pounds per annum; and by a further *five* pounds per annum where such rate exceeded five hundred pounds per annum:

(ii.) In the case of persons paid at an hourly or daily rate, the rate of reduction shall be *eightpence* a day or its equivalent, increased by *fourpence* a day or its equivalent in cases where such rate of remuneration exceeded one hundred and ninety pounds per annum, and by a further *fourpence* a day or its equivalent where such rate exceeded three hundred and twenty pounds per annum.

Clause 7: To omit the clause, and substitute the following new clause:—

Further reductions may be made in certain cases on 1st July, 1922, and 1st January, 1923.

7. (1.) If in the month of June, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, and the month of December, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, the Minister of Finance is of opinion that further reductions in the amount of the permanent charges on the public revenues are necessary in the public interest, he may, by notices published in the *Gazette*, declare that the rates of remuneration of persons to whom section *five* hereof applies and of persons to whom paragraph (*b*) of section *six* hereof applies, shall as from the first day of July, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, and as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and *twenty-three*, as the case may be, be reduced by rates to be fixed by the Minister of Finance as provided in the *next succeeding* subsection, and every such notice shall, subject to the *next succeeding* subsection, have effect according to its tenor.

(2.) For the purpose of determining the rate of reduction (if any) to be fixed by the Minister of Finance pursuant to the *last preceding* subsection as from the first day of July, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, or as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and *twenty-three*, the Judge of the Court of Arbitration, on the request in writing of the Minister of Finance, shall proceed to ascertain the ratio between the standard cost of living as at the last day of May, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, and as at the last day of November, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, as the case may require, and the standard cost of living as at the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and *twenty*. In determining the rates of reduction (if any) to be made as on the first day of July, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, and as on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and *twenty-three*, the Minister of Finance shall take into consideration the finding of the Judge of the Court of Arbitration in respect of the standard cost of living as at the aforesaid dates, and shall, so far as practicable, fix the rates of reduction so that the proportion between the rate of reduction of remuneration and the rate of special increase of remuneration granted as from the first day of April, nineteen hundred and *twenty* (as hereinbefore recited), shall not, taking into consideration any former reductions under this Act, exceed the proportion between the rate of reduction in the cost of living and the standard cost of living as on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and *twenty*, as certified to by the Judge of the Court of Arbitration :

Provided that in the case of persons to whom section *five* hereof applies the aggregate reduction as from the first day of July, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, may be equal to but shall not exceed *sixty thousand* pounds per annum, and the aggregate reduction as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and *twenty-three*, may be equal to but shall not exceed *forty thousand* pounds per annum ; and in the case of persons to whom paragraph (b) of section *six* hereof applies the rate of reduction as from the first day of July, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, may be equal to but shall not exceed *five* pounds per annum in the case of persons whose rate of remuneration as at the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and *twenty-one*, did not exceed one hundred and ninety pounds per annum, and *fifteen* pounds per annum in all other cases, and as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and *twenty-three*, may be equal to but shall not exceed *ten* pounds per annum, save in the case of persons to whom the *next succeeding* proviso applies :

Provided further that in the case of persons to whom paragraph (b) of section *six* hereof applies, and whose rate of remuneration as at the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and *twenty-one*, did not exceed one hundred and ninety pounds per annum, the aggregate reductions under this Act shall not exceed the rate of *fifteen* pounds per annum.

(3.) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this section, the Minister of Finance may fix a date later than the first day of July, nineteen hundred and *twenty-two*, or the first day of January, nineteen hundred and *twenty-three*, as the case may be, as the date on which any reduction under this section in the rates of salaries shall take effect.

Clause 11 : To omit the words " thirty-first day of March " in line 44, and substitute the words " thirtieth day of June."

Clause 12 : To add the following subclause :—

(2.) All rates of salaries and wages which by any scheme of classification are appropriate to any position or office shall be deemed to be reduced by the amount of any reduction effected by this Act in the rate of remuneration of any person holding such position or office.

Clause 14 : To add the words " In particular, but without limiting the authority conferred by this section, regulations under this section may provide for the adjustment of anomalies or for the relief of cases of hardship, and such regulations shall be sufficient authority for the payment of any moneys certified in manner prescribed by those regulations to be payable in accordance therewith."