

the rate of exchange is not stationary, that it fluctuates from week to week and from month to month, I came to the conclusion that it would be almost impossible to work out this scheme. Had the rate of exchange been permanent, it might have been possible to work out this scheme; but the rate of exchange not being permanent, it would be practically impossible for the Board of Pension Commissioners to follow the rate of exchange.

Mr. CALDER: The schedules have been very carefully checked but two slight amendments are necessary. I move to amend schedule A by correcting the first figures in the fourth line of the first schedule to make them read \$637.50 instead of \$637, and the last figures in the same line to make them read \$31.88 instead of \$21.88.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. POWER: In case these things are not carefully checked, what effect will there be on the pensions? For instance, in schedule A under class 1, the first child gets \$180, and the second child, \$144 per annum; but when you come to class 13, both of them get the same, namely, \$72 per annum.

Mr. CRONYN: They get the same from there on.

Mr. POWER: Yes. Is there any special reason for that?

Mr. CRONYN: The explanation is that this follows the arrangement made under the present Act where, from an administrative point of view, so as to cut out fractions of dollars in making money payments, the deduction was not absolutely by strict percentage, but it was worked out so as to bring it to even money payments as far as possible.

Mr. POWER: That is, I understand, by regulation of the Board of Pension Commissioners?

Mr. CRONYN: It was done at the request, no doubt, of the Board of Pension Commissioners in the last Act to enable the administration to work in that way, but it is, of course, fixed by the schedule.

Schedule A agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Calder, the committee reverted to the consideration of clause 23— increase not exceeding \$180 annually between dependent parents of deceased member.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: As I said before, I was somewhat impressed by the observa-
[Mr. Caldwell.]

tions which have been made by the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's, the hon. member for Brome, and the hon. member for Quebec South. On the other hand, I have since had the opportunity of discussing the matter with some members of the committee, and I find that this subject received careful attention from every possible standpoint, and that there are some considerations in connection with the matter on which it is not necessary for me to dwell at the moment, and which perhaps influenced the decision of the committee to some extent. If we should attempt to depart from the report and the resolution based upon it, it would be necessary for us to ask the consent of His Excellency the Governor General to bring down another resolution. I have reached the conclusion that under the circumstances I should ask the committee to let the Bill pass in its present form. Between now and the opening of another session we shall have an opportunity of considering the question still further, and of ascertaining whether any sense of injustice is created by the report and by the Bill in the form now proposed. If it should transpire that such is the case, it will be open to Parliament immediately after the opening of the next session to reconsider the matter, and, if it should be deemed necessary, to make any new provision retroactive, so as to place the mothers in question upon the same basis as those who live in this country. I could add something to this, but I hope under the circumstances the committee will be content to accept this conclusion, subject to the understanding which I have just mentioned.

Mr. FIELDING: I appreciate the difficulty which my right hon. friend has referred to in opening up the matter in a form which will call for the introduction of a new resolution with the consequent delay. I am quite content to accept the intimation the right hon. gentleman has given that if, as a result of our experience, cases of this kind arise, as I am pretty sure they will, Parliament will take a generous view of the matter at the next session and, if need be, make the provision retroactive. I am quite content that we should proceed to-day on the lines my right hon. friend suggests, and I think there will be no difficulty at the next session in making the desired amendment.

Mr. POWER: So far as I am concerned, I have no objection to accepting what has