

*Old Age Pensions*

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Of course, it is obvious that it is not within my knowledge as to whether or not the Minister of Labour was correctly reported. But if I understand correctly the coordinated efforts that are being put forward by all agencies, both governmental and industrial, and by every other force in this country at the present time, then I am sure that the Minister of Labour was not far out when he said he could look forward—I am stating it in substance—with a great deal of hope to relief, in a large measure at least, from the difficulties in which we are now placed before the coming of next winter. With respect to the alleged interview in Montreal, I have no information concerning it. But if events do not materialize as we hope they will, then this government, I am sure, will take whatever steps are necessary to see that there will be no undue suffering among the people of this country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What my hon. friend says hardly answers my question. I wish he would ask the Minister of Labour whether he made such representations in Hamilton or Montreal, and advise the house definitely after he has had an opportunity of communicating with his colleague.

## OLD AGE PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): Before the orders of the day are called may I ask the Prime Minister a question which is of very great importance to the province of Manitoba. In a press despatch which appears in the Citizen of April 28, I find this:

Government unlikely pay 95 per cent this year.

Under this heading I wish to read a short article:

Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 27.—Likelihood that the Dominion government will not undertake this year to pay 95 per cent of old age pensions, an election campaign promise of Premier R. B. Bennett, was expressed here to-day by Hon. D. L. McLeod, municipal commissioner for Manitoba, in making public a telegram received from the Dominion Prime Minister.

In reply to a wire from Premier John Bracken of Manitoba, Mr. Bennett advised the provincial government to make provisions for paying old age pensions this year on the same basis as it has in the past. There remained a possibility, the wire intimated, that the Dominion government would have the legislation necessary for transfer of the pensions burden passed at the present session of parliament.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

The question I wish to ask is this: In view of the fact that the province of Manitoba, in its budget, has made no provisions to pay old age pensions this year, will the Prime Minister tell us whether he intends to introduce old age pensions legislation and pay 95 per cent, as I understand it was promised the three western provinces during the conference last fall.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): (1) No such promise was made. (2) This government is not responsible for the conduct of the business of the government of Manitoba.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Was this wire sent—

Mr. BENNETT: That is all I propose to say.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Thank you.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Do I understand my right hon. friend to say that no promises were made?

Mr. BENNETT: I said, no such promise.

Mr. LAPOINTE: No such promises were made.

Mr. BENNETT: No; no such promise was made.

## INQUIRY FOR RETURNS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): I again direct the attention of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart) to the fact that the papers I have asked for have not yet been tabled. We are going to take up the estimates and no doubt to-day, or at the next sitting of the committee, we shall reach harbours and rivers in the province of New Brunswick. I do not wish to delay the estimates at all, but I desire to have these papers that I have asked for, and to which I am entitled, before we get to that stage.

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): I assure the hon. member for Gloucester that he will have ample opportunity when the estimates of the Public Works department are under consideration, to discuss all matters in connection with harbours and rivers in the province of New Brunswick. The return has been prepared and has been forwarded to the Secretary of State, and will be down before we reach that item.

Mr. VENIOT: I wish to say that while that may be satisfactory to a certain extent,