

I might mention that old age pensions became payable in British Columbia on September 1, 1927; in Alberta on August 1, 1929; in Manitoba on September 1, 1928; in Ontario on November 1, 1929; in Saskatchewan on May 1, 1928, and in the North West Territories on January 25, 1929.

The provinces east of Ontario have not yet expressed a desire to operate under the provisions of this Act. Concurrent legislation was passed by New Brunswick in 1930, and by Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in 1931, and this legislation will come into force by proclamation. During the past year Old Age Pensions Acts have been amended for the purpose of securing to the provinces the benefit of the Dominion Act decreasing the percentage of the contribution of the province.

The Old Age Pensions Act passed by Nova Scotia in 1931 provided for the general scheme. The Prince Edward Island legislation mentioned has not been received by the Department of Labour as yet, but it is presumed that it will follow the lines of the Nova Scotia Act.

Substantial sums have been paid by the Federal Government. It may be interesting to refer to these. Up to March 31 last there were in Canada some 57,930 persons pensionable under the Old Age Pensions Act. It is perhaps unnecessary to give the details here, but they may be found in the Labour Gazette for May, 1931. The total amount of pensions paid since the inception of the Old Age Pensions Act to March 31 of this year was \$19,102,834.47.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is the total amount?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The total amount. The Dominion Government's proportion of that total was \$9,552,477.44. The figures for the various provinces are also given in the same issue of the Labour Gazette. As the principal object of this Bill is to increase the Federal Government's contribution from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the sums paid out by the various provinces, honourable members may not consider it necessary to go into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: Has the honourable Minister a memorandum containing the provincial figures to which he has referred?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The document I have in my hand has been reprinted from the Labour Gazette for May of this year.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: Would there be any objection to having the figures placed upon Hansard as part of the honourable gentleman's speech? I think they would be interesting.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: There is no objection on my part to putting upon Hansard all the figures contained in this document. I have read only a few of them, because I did not consider the others were relevant to the subject under discussion.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would the honourable gentleman tell us what has been paid by Ontario during the last twelve months? I suppose the payments do not extend much farther back than that.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Perhaps the honourable gentleman would be interested to know that the average pension paid to eligible persons over seventy years of age in Ontario was \$19.15,—somewhat below \$20, it will be observed.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: That is per month?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Yes. The total amount of pensions paid in Ontario during the last quarter of the fiscal year 1930-31 was \$1,578,840.82, and the Federal Government's share was \$789,420.40.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That would be on the basis of about \$3,000,000 a year as the Federal Government's share for the Province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The total amount paid in old age pensions in the Province of Ontario from the time the Act went into force until March 31 this year was \$9,324,110.57, of which the Federal Government's share was \$4,662,055.27.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: What period does that cover?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The whole period since Ontario came under the Act.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I should like to know the date.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The Act became effective in Ontario on November 1, 1929.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The share of the Dominion Government for pensions in Ontario would be about \$3,000,000 a year?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Well, it is a little over four and a half millions since November 1929.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: What was the amount that the Government paid for the quarter-year?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: \$789,420.40.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: At that rate, it would be a little more than \$3,000,000 a year?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Yes, roughly.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Put all the figures on Hansard.