

which states that there is an obligation on children to support their parents. The way they twist the language, perhaps innocently inserted by the minister, is this: that as long as the father is entitled to "expect" his son to assist him, the son shall do it. When a child who is on relief cannot do it, they say: That makes no difference; the parent is entitled to "expect" that he will do it, and that relieves the board of any obligation. They say to a woman eighty years of age: Go and sue your daughter, your son. Supposing it is a son, you have the daughter-in-law saying: You are trying to take the bread out of my children's mouths when we are desperately hard up and ourselves on relief. Yet these officials say: Go and sue your children before we will give you any recognition of your rights under the Old Age Pensions Act. These are the sorts of injustices that are going on and in regard to which the minister might well have an investigation. I hope what I have just read out is true, namely, that the Premier of British Columbia has taken steps to make a request of that kind. I trust this will lead to an amelioration of those grievances, not only those mentioned in the newspaper, but also those I have cited and several others that I would be very happy to give the particulars of and absolutely prove.

Mr. HEAPS: I notice in the speech from the throne submitted to the house on January 17 last the following:

Better provision will be made for the security of the worker during unemployment, in sickness, and in old age.

I would like to ask the Minister of Labour if there is likely to come before the house this session any legislation which will in some way implement the pledge made in the speech from the throne on January 17 last.

Mr. GORDON: I assume the hon. member has read the legislation that has already been brought before parliament and is in course of being passed. There is not likely to be any further legislation directed toward the subject matter to which reference has been made.

Mr. HEAPS: Can the minister then give to the committee this information: How many people in Canada are to-day in receipt of old age pensions?

Mr. GORDON: The Labour Gazette, which of course has been distributed to the members, discloses a total of 86,873 persons in receipt of old age pensions at the close of the fiscal year 1933-34.

Mr. HEAPS: If it is not too much trouble, could the minister give us the figures by provinces?

Mr. GORDON: This again is all revealed in the Labour Gazette which each hon. member has in his office or room:

Province:	Number of persons
Alberta..	6,286
British Columbia..	8,095
Manitoba..	9,236
Nova Scotia..	6,509
Ontario..	46,281
Prince Edward Island..	1,258
Saskatchewan..	9,203
Northwest Territories..	5
	86,873

Mr. MacINNIS: Could the minister give the total amount paid in old age pensions and the amount paid by provinces?

Mr. GORDON: I regret I have not the amounts divided among the provinces, but during the fiscal year 1933-34 the total expenditure in Canada for old age pensions was \$16,566,116.74, in respect of which amount the dominion government's contributions to the provinces aggregated \$12,313,594.93.

Mr. MITCHELL: Have there been any negotiations with Quebec and those other provinces in which at the moment pensions do not exist, with the possible end in view of bringing the people of those provinces under this legislation?

Mr. GORDON: The dominion government has passed the legislation. The legislation itself is an open invitation to a province to subscribe to the plan and enact the required legislation if in its judgment this is a wise, just and proper thing to do. So far as I am aware, the dominion government has not urged any province to take advantage of the legislation, nor has it discouraged it.

Mr. MITCHELL: I would like that point made clearer. The minister says that the government has never urged the idea or retarded it. Would this be a fair thing to say, that any province is welcome to take advantage of the legislation, and that the dominion government would not stand in the way?

Mr. GORDON: Quite so.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE

Salaries, \$258,570; contingencies, \$46,800.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I should like to ask the minister if he has any statement to make to the committee with regard to the appointment