

administration. That is common sense. If we want to have that agreement effective we have to work it out, and in view of the fact that the province and the Dominion is each contributing, we say to the province: Submit your scheme to us so that we may make any suggestions we think necessary for its improvement. After the scheme of administration has been agreed on, we say to the provincial authorities: You will not be able to change that scheme of administration without letting us know. I do not see what objection there can be to that.

Mr. BOYS: Then the suggestion is that we have this ridiculous state of affairs—legislation of the province declaring the agreement at an end, but the scheme continuing for years to come.

Mr. CANNON: Not at all.

Mr. BOYS: There is no alternative.

Mr. CANNON: The agreement is a binding contract, but the scheme of administration is purely a matter of administration.

Mr. McGIBBON: If the minister's argument is to be taken seriously, it seems to me to be the biggest piece of nonsense ever developed in this House.

Mr. CANNON: I am sorry my friend takes it that way.

Mr. McGIBBON: It means that two parties enter into an agreement but that the agreement is binding on one party only.

Mr. CANNON: My friend did not get my argument.

Mr. McGIBBON: I got the common sense of it anyway.

Mr. BROWN: Section 4 says:

Every agreement made pursuant to this act shall continue in force so long as the provincial statute remains in operation—

So long as the provincial statute remains in operation.

—or until after the expiration of ten years.

Section 4 binds the Dominion government to continue the agreement for ten years. The question has been asked, What about the provincial government? Well, this clause simply says nothing about it. It seems to me that section 5 is misinterpreted because the thought has been injected into our minds that we say definitely that the provincial government shall have the privilege of withdrawing, but section 4 says the agreement shall continue in force—

—so long as the provincial statute remains in operation.

[Mr. Cannon.]

Section 5 assumes that the provincial statute has not been repealed, and it simply says that while that statute is in operation the provisions of the scheme for administration shall be approved by the governor in council.

Mr. BOYS: I should like to ask the member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) or the Solicitor General what is to happen to the scheme if the agreement goes by the board. Does not the scheme say how much the old man or the old woman is to get per year? I must be absolutely stupid or I ought to be able to convince the Solicitor General—at all events the Minister of Public Works—that there is something in the point I am suggesting. If the scheme is part of the agreement, and if it cannot be varied except by the consent of the governor in council, then what right can there be in the province to terminate the agreement? And if the agreement is terminated, does not the scheme go by the board with the agreement?

Mr. CANNON: The tail follows the dog.

Mr. BOYS: If that is right, are you not in conflict when you read section 5 with section 4? I see my friends on the front benches nodding their heads. Well, I am willing to be convinced. Let me again ask for an explanation from the Solicitor General. If the scheme is part of the agreement, and if the province can abrogate the agreement or the statute on which it is based, then the scheme goes with it, and how can you apply section 5, which says the governor in council must be a party?

Mr. CANNON: Section 4 is the cause, section 5 is the effect. The moment the cause disappears the effect disappears also. In other words, the tail follows the dog.

Mr. THOMPSON: How would it be to have section 4 read:

Every agreement made in pursuance of this act shall continue in force until after the expiration of ten years from the date upon which notice of intention is given by either party to the other to determine the same.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The answer, it seems to me, is exactly the answer that has been given before, that there is no intention to force the province to continue any agreement with the Dominion after it wishes to withdraw.

Mr. BOYS: Clause 5 does that.

Mr. ELLIOTT: No. Clause 4 says the province may terminate it at any time, that is by repealing its statute.

Mr. BOYS: The scheme too.