

Resolved, that it is expedient to provide that the Minister of Railways and Canals may, with the authority of the Governor in Council, construct a branch line railway from Harmony, on the Souris branch of the Prince Edward Island Railway, to Elmira, in Kings county.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General having been appraised of the subject matter of this resolution gives his assent thereto.

Motion agreed to.

GEORGIAN BAY CANAL—REPORT.

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY (Minister of Public Works). While perhaps I may be out of order, the House will allow me, pending the completion of the Georgian bay canal report, now to report a complete detailed estimate of the cost of the proposed undertaking, accompanied by the plans illustrative of the project in its main features, prepared by Mr. A. St. Laurent, who has had direction of the survey; also of certain additional plans of the proposed work.

GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 120) to authorize the issue of government annuities for old age.

Mr. RALPH SMITH. I move that the Bill be not now read the third time, but that it be recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House with instructions to insert the following as new section 6, and to renumber the later sections accordingly:

6. Any such person who has moneys sufficient for the purpose deposited in any post office savings bank, may, upon making demand in such form as is prescribed in that behalf by the Postmaster General, authorize the Postmaster General to transfer to the minister any sum which such person may desire to apply to the purchase of an annuity under this Act.

2. Any society or association of persons, being a body corporate for fraternal, benevolent, religious or other lawful purposes, may contract with His Majesty, on behalf of such of its members as are domiciled in Canada, for the sale to such members of annuities, otherwise purchasable by them as individuals under this Act; and any sums of money necessary to the carrying out of the aforesaid object may be paid by such society or association direct to the minister, or may be deposited in any post office savings bank, to be transferred by the Postmaster General to the minister.

2. Employers of labour may, pursuant to agreement entered into with their employees in that behalf, such agreement to be of a form approved by the minister, contract with His Majesty for the sale to such of their said employees as are domiciled in Canada, of annuities otherwise purchasable by such employees as individuals under this Act; and

any sum of money necessary to the carrying out of the aforesaid object, whether such sums be derived from the wages of the employees solely, or partly from the wages of the employees and partly from contributions of the employers or from contributions of the employers solely, may be paid by such employers direct to the minister, or may be deposited in any post office savings bank to be transferred by the Postmaster General to the minister: provided that any sums so paid shall in any event be held for the exclusive account of the persons in whose names they were deposited, respectively.

I may say in explanation, that the object of this amendment is, first, to make it possible for depositors in the post office savings bank to transfer their accounts, or any amount of their accounts, to the minister for the purchase of annuities. The second provision is to make a provision whereby friendly and fraternal associations and religious organizations may make arrangements for the purchase of annuities for the benefit of any of their members. The third provision is to make it possible for employers of labour and their employees to enter into a contract for the purchase of annuities for the employees, such annuities of course to be taken out in favour of the working men themselves. I think the House will agree, when we get into committee, to the insertion of these provisions in the Act, which I think will be of great benefit to the classes of people mentioned.

Amendment agreed to, and Bill considered in committee and reported with amendment.

Mr. FIELDING. The law clerk may be relied upon to make the necessary changes in the renumbering of the sections. I move that the Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. SPROULE. I would ask whether the provision allowing fraternal societies to take advantage of the Bill, means incorporated or unincorporated bodies. There are certain societies under letters patent of corporation, and others are not. Would it apply equally to both?

Mr. FIELDING. The section says 'any society or association of persons being a body corporate.' They require to be incorporated bodies.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the third time and passed.

LEAD BOUNTIES.

Mr. FIELDING moved the third reading of Bill (No. 191) respecting the payment of bounties on lead contained in lead-carrying ores mined in Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Bill is read the third time I desire to make a short statement. When the Bill was in committee I asked the minister for certain information.