

Some of them are remote municipalities. We hope that all of them are acquainted with the provisions of the Bill, but it may be that in some cases the municipal councils do not meet as often as they do in some of the urban municipalities, and news does not travel as fast. It seems to me that if this section is enacted in its present form, we will find a number of municipalities which are not aware that there is a cut-off date, and thereby they will be denied the benefit of this Bill. I suggest that the cut-off date should be lifted out of the section, or considerably advanced because I venture to say that the provisions of this Act will not be brought to the attention of very many municipalities in the group affected unless there are those who have their own solicitors, employed full time.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: This applies of course only to those who would benefit under the Act as it was before this amendment. This does not apply to bar those who would now take benefits under the amendment. It applies to those who have had since 1950 in which to apply. The purpose of clause 7 is to put a cut-off date on that group.

Mr. FLEMING: We are clear then that there is no cut-off date in respect to those who are to be permitted to receive the benefits of the Act.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: No. This is only for those who have had since 1950 within which to qualify for benefits under the Act.

Mr. FLEMING: The minister says there is no cut-off date in the Act with respect to other municipalities, those who have not qualified hitherto under the four per cent rule, but who may still qualify under the two per cent formula.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Quite so.

Mr. TUCKER: Could we not approve clause 6 with the amendment without the necessity of holding another meeting?

The CHAIRMAN: As a matter of fact, since the amendment is one which involves the expenditure of money, all we can do is to recommend it.

Mr. MACDONNELL: We can very well discuss it when it comes to the committee of the whole.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall clause 8 carry?

Carried.

Shall the title carry?

Carried.

Mr. MACDONNELL: We have been denied the opportunity to discuss the principles underlying the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: I began, this morning, by saying that you could discuss anything you wished to discuss. You are now at liberty to do that, and if we need another meeting, I will call one at your convenience in order for you to discuss it.

Mr. MACDONNELL: We have been denied an opportunity of getting the views of those who were most interested.

The CHAIRMAN: You had a motion and the committee passed judgment on it.

Mr. MACDONNELL: I know, but I want to repeat that it has been the play without Hamlet.

The CHAIRMAN: We too are concerned about paying out nearly \$7 million. We have been quite generous in recent years increasing the amounts from three to six and now to seven million.