

Old Age Pensions

paid to the province—approximately \$25 million—is reasonable, modest and fair.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1953, the federal government levied, in the province of Quebec, \$286,595,000 in personal income tax, \$387,019,000 in corporation income tax, and \$6,771,000 in succession duties, a total of \$680,385,000 in direct taxes. This represents \$167.73 per capita. Under the provincial income tax law, the tax per capita is only \$5.50. Can anyone say that it is unreasonable to ask for \$5.50 out of \$167.73?

In 1930, the amount of taxes collected by the federal government and the municipalities under provincial control was approximately equal: \$316 million and \$307 million respectively, while the revenues of provincial governments amounted to \$158 million. In 1951, the revenues of the federal government reached the astronomical figure of \$3,791 million, while those of the provinces were only \$918 million and those of the municipalities \$636 million. Expressed in percentage, the figures were as follows:

	Revenues of all governments		
	1930	1939	1951
Federal government	40.5	48.0	70.9
Provincial governments ..	20.2	22.3	17.2
Municipalities	39.3	29.7	11.9
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

This table shows that the federal government collected 40.5 per cent of all taxes in 1930, and 70.9 per cent in 1951. The levies of the provincial governments increased only slightly during the same period. The situation of the municipalities has seriously deteriorated. While they collected 39.3 per cent of all taxes in 1930, they collect only 11.9 per cent at the present time.

The province of Quebec is now sustaining a heavy material loss in its lonely struggle for the maintenance of its privileges and freedoms, which have been recognized by treaties based on British fair play.

Those privileges and freedoms have been secured through the confederation pact, and nobody denies it; without this guarantee the religious and political leaders of the province of Quebec would not have accepted that pact. The province of Quebec intends to keep control over its heritage, its civil law, its educational and religious freedoms, and its social traditions. It has confidence that the sense of fair play of its friends from the other provinces will convince them that its claims are just and reasonable.

(Translation):

Mr. Balcer: Would the hon. member allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. LaCroix: Certainly.

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Mr. Balcer: Does the hon. member's speech reflect the general feeling of the federal Liberal members from the province of Quebec?

Mr. LaCroix: I was stating my own views.

Mr. Boisvert: I would like to direct a question to the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. LaCroix). Will the hon. member allow me to do so?

Mr. LaCroix: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Boisvert: The hon. member seems to be well informed but has he any proof that the government of the province of Quebec was compelled to resort to a tax on personal and corporate incomes within the province in order to obtain an additional sum of \$25 million?

Mr. Poulin: The people of Quebec will answer that question.

Mr. Boisvert: I am not directing it to the hon. member, but to the member for Quebec-Montmorency. Has he any proof that the government of the province of Quebec had to impose a tax on the taxpayers and the corporations of the province of Quebec to obtain additional revenue of \$25 million?

Mr. LaCroix: In the circumstances, yes.

Mr. Balcer: Definitely, yes.

(Text):

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSIONS

Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before the hon. member for Lethbridge speaks, I understand that he is introducing a new subject. Do I understand that the previous subject is exhausted?

Mr. Dufresne: Perhaps the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Boisvert) would like to speak on the subject.

Mr. Blackmore: Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice a grievance. The senior citizens of the federal riding of Lethbridge are suffering serious deprivation occasioned by the woefully inadequate financial assistance now being provided them by reason of the action or lack of action of this federal government and parliament.

May I remind the house and the country that prices of practically all commodities and services in Canada have risen enormously, in some cases doubling, since this parliament last substantially increased its allowance to the elderly folks in Canada.

May I also remind the house and the country that never yet has the meagre pension