

with those who are perhaps sullenly resentful—as the camps are cleared out we get down to the turbulent class—I think hon. members should recognize the burden which the taxpayer of Canada has assumed quite willingly. We should not forget the efforts which have been put forth by those charged with the administration of these camps and the success which has followed.

Item agreed to.

Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, \$10,000.

Mr. HEAPS: When we are considering an amendment to the act for which this vote is requested, I asked certain questions in connection with the boards of conciliation which had been appointed during the last fiscal year. Possibly the minister has this information before him to-night.

Mr. GORDON: During the last fiscal year seventeen applications were received for boards, but the necessity arose for the appointment of only four. The other applications are taken care of by the conciliation officers of the department when the necessity appears.

Mr. HEAPS: Are there occasions when requests made for the setting up of boards are turned down?

Mr. GORDON: If it is apparent that the application does not fall within the provisions of the act, then it is refused; but if it appears that there is a dispute as at present interpreted by the act and that there is reason for complaint, great care is taken to see that there is no arbitrary action by the department; and rather than turn down an application for the setting up of a board of conciliation the matter is invariably referred to the conciliation officers of the department in order that their activities may be invoked with a view to having the difficulty ironed out.

Item agreed to.

Administration Old Age Pensions Act, \$2,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The Prime Minister some time ago made some announcement with respect to amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act during the present session. Can the minister give information regarding any intended amendments?

Mr. GORDON: I am not in a position to make any pronouncement with respect to amendments to the act.

Mr. NEILL: I wish to ask the minister a question based on a news item appearing in the Vancouver Sun of May 29, which is the last issue of the paper to have reached us. I will read the whole article, which is only a short one:

B.C. government endorses pension reform.

Announcement that the Old Age Pensioners' Organization has been successful in obtaining endorsement of the provincial government for its proposed reforms in old age pension administration is made to-day by E. R. Vipond, of the organization's executive.

Premier T. D. Pattullo has written to Ottawa, he states, urging that the dominion give earnest consideration to the following suggestions of the pensioners' organization:

1. Persons over 70 should not be disqualified for old age pension owing to having broken their continuous residence in Canada.

2. The regulation refusing pension where, in the opinion of the board, children should support the parents, should be amended so that aged parents should not suffer hardship because of inability of their children to support them.

3. That the time is opportune to give consideration to reduction of the age limit at which persons may become eligible for old age pension. The great surplus of labour at this time makes it impossible for elderly people to secure work. Reduction to 60 or 65 would not only give security to this class, but would remove from an overloaded labour market men who have already made their contribution to the work of the country.

Has the minister received any representation of that kind? If so, is he disposed to give it favourable consideration, if any?

Mr. GORDON: No such communication from the Premier of British Columbia has been called to my attention so far as I can recollect, and I believe I would have recollected it had it come to the Labour department. I have had many representations from British Columbia dealing with a multitude of subjects that all present or are said to present problems. If such a communication does come to the Labour department it will of course be given the consideration to which it is entitled, which would naturally be serious consideration.

Mr. NEILL: I wish to add a few words. There are a number of grievances in connection with the administration of this act, and while some of them are at the door of the dominion government for having changed the regulations that were in force, others are due to the maladministration of the provincial government, or the malinterpretation of the regulations. Bad as they were, they have been made worse by the deliberate misinterpretation of them by the board in British Columbia which is administering the act. Let me give one illustration. The dominion government in their wisdom, and I am not