

Supply—Immigration

in the price which they are being called upon to pay. A number have asked me to request the minister to give some consideration to reducing the interest rate, eliminating the interest for a certain term or cancelling arrears of interest which have accumulated during the years they have been unable to pay. I am not going to speak at any length to-night on this matter as the minister understands the situation, but I make this plea on behalf of these men.

Mr. DONNELLY: I notice part of this grant is for advances under the British family schemes to be recoverable from the British government. Some years ago an agreement was entered into between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the British government to bring out a certain number of settlers to settle in a colony known as the Coal Creek colony. I understand that the British government was to look after these people for a couple of years, but for the past three years they have had crop failures and at the present time are very hard up. Will any part of this grant be used to care for the people in this colony?

Mr. GORDON: The hon. member was good enough to speak to me about the situation to which he has referred, but all I can say is that I understand the agreement was between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the British government or some society in Great Britain, and this government was not a party thereto. I am not acquainted with the terms of the agreement, but I shall be glad to look into the matter and advise the hon. member if in any way we are a party to the agreement.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Annuities Act, \$32,000.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Is an investigation being carried on in connection with the fruit basket manufacture, and if so, has it been completed?

Mr. GORDON: The investigation in connection with fruit basket and container manufacturers is still being pursued and I expect a report thereon in a short time.

Mr. CASGRAIN: In the Citizen of May 14 there appeared an article headed as follows:

Cut Production of Canned Goods
Ontario and Quebec Cooperatives Agree to
Sell at Fixed Price

There would appear to be a combine in connection with these commodities and I
[Mr. Speaker.]

should like to know if an investigation is to be carried on.

Mr. GORDON: Whenever the proper steps are taken in connection with price fixing, an investigation follows. I am not acquainted with the situation to which my hon. friend refers, but if the proper steps are taken, an investigation will follow.

Mr. HEENAN: Is the minister considering the appointment of additional fair wage officers? As the minister knows, in many cases these officers act in a dual capacity. They inspect the different public works being carried on to see that fair wages are being paid, and at times they act as conciliators in wage disputes. There are very few of these officers throughout the country, and in my opinion more should be appointed. I have in mind the fact that we have very few fair wage officers throughout Canada. The minister will recall that in 1930 we passed a Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act which, if carried out, as I am sure the government wishes it to be, would require, in my opinion, the employment of additional men in order to see that the act is complied with. I was wondering whether the minister did not have that in mind and whether he intended appointing additional men for that work.

Mr. GORDON: If it becomes apparent that more officers are necessary in order to carry on the work to which the hon. member has referred, undoubtedly that will be done.

Mr. HEENAN: I understand a conference of provincial premiers was held here recently. I was wondering whether on that occasion the government took the opportunity to discuss the question of the establishment of an unemployment insurance system for Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: They did not.

Mr. HEENAN: And whether or not they discussed the question of the eight-hour day being made general throughout Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: They did not.

Mr. HEENAN: With respect to old age pensions, can the government or the minister give the committee any idea when they contemplate the establishment of a system of old age pensions for Canada on a national basis?

Mr. GORDON: The payment of old age pensions is, of course, determined by the laws which parliament has passed. I do not know exactly what the hon. member means when he speaks of placing the system on a national basis. The legislation now in force with respect to old age pensions is well known