

Family Allowances Act

all its detail, which I think would be unnecessary. This covers December, 1952, and shows the number of families in pay, the number of children in pay, the average allowance per child and the average allowance per family for each of the ten provinces. It represents a total payment of \$28 million in that month to 2,021,745 families representing almost 5 million children. With the unanimous consent of the house I think this table, printed in conjunction with

what I am saying, might prove of interest to those who want to peruse my remarks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the minister wish to have the table printed in *Hansard*? Is that what he meant?

Mr. Martin: Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Martin: The table is as follows:

TREASURY OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

FAMILY ALLOWANCES STATISTICS
DECEMBER 1952

Province	Number of Families In Pay	Number of Children In Pay	Average Allowance Per Child		Total Amount
			\$	cts.	
Newfoundland.....	53,481	155,497	5.96	17.33	926,709
Prince Edward Island.....	13,232	34,959	6.03	15.93	210,815
Nova Scotia.....	93,960	226,109	6.04	14.54	1,366,136
New Brunswick.....	74,141	199,607	6.00	16.16	1,198,269
Quebec.....	558,834	1,489,147	6.04	16.09	8,989,977
Ontario.....	673,377	1,382,531	6.01	12.33	8,305,108
Manitoba.....	112,546	241,679	6.01	12.91	1,452,529
Saskatchewan.....	120,171	271,048	6.08	13.70	1,646,961
Alberta.....	145,548	316,204	6.04	13.12	1,910,081
British Columbia.....	172,172	342,665	6.02	11.98	2,062,522
Northwest Territories and Yukon.....	4,283	9,541	5.99	13.34	57,128
NATIONAL.....	2,021,745	4,668,987	6.02	13.91	28,126,235

There are other considerations that I think one should bear in mind in connection with this measure because, while there are occasional abuses, those abuses, as the proposer himself has indicated, are by no means as great as the occasional critic suggests. One financial journal in Canada and one daily newspaper in Toronto, the *Globe and Mail*, have questioned the validity of the whole measure. We have sought to indicate the false position and the false premises of these arguments, but I can say on my responsibility as the minister in charge of the department that family allowances have helped Canadian

parents to provide for their children better food, shelter, clothing, health care and education.

As the hon. member for Edmonton East (Mr. Macdonald) mentioned, the family allowance measure is perhaps the most successful truant officer we have. There is no doubt that, almost coincidental with the introduction of the measure, school attendance in Canada achieved and has maintained record proportions. This, of course, is as the act intends, as suspension of payment for a child is made if he or she fails to attend school, except for some legitimate reason.

[Mr. Martin.]