

AGE AND DISABILITY PENSIONS

The eligible age for the Canada Pension Plan retirement pension and the Old Age Security pension dropped to 65 on January 1, thus completing the age-reduction program, which started five years ago, when the eligible age was 70.

The age reduction, it is estimated, will add 250,000 to the number of people eligible to receive the Old Age Security pension in 1970. Owing to age reduction and other factors, it is also expected that some 90,000 people will apply next year for retirement pensions under the Canada Pension Plan. By the end of October, more than 84,000 were receiving CPP retirement pensions.

To receive a CPP retirement pension, a person must have contributed to the plan, must have a social insurance number and must make application. If he is between the ages of 65 and 70, he must also be retired from regular employment. At 70, however, he can apply for his retirement pension whether or not he is retired.

DISABILITY PENSIONS

Disability pensions and benefits for the children of recipients will become available for the first time under the Canada Pension Plan, in February 1970. The introduction of disability pensions and benefits for the children of disabled contributors will complete the roster of CPP benefits, which now comprises retirement pensions, pensions for widows and disabled widowers, death benefits and benefits for orphans.

To be eligible for a disability pension, a person must have contributed to the plan for at least five years (or parts thereof) and have a physical or mental disability so severe, and likely to continue so long, that he is unable to engage in any substantially gainful occupation. Eligibility will be determined on the basis of medical evidence the applicant will be required to obtain, usually from his own physician, and by a test of employability. A decision will be made by a special board of the CPP.

The legislation also provides for the payment of rehabilitation measures where there appears to be a reasonable chance that the disability pensioner may later be able to engage in gainful work.

BENEFITS

For an applicant who fulfils all requirements, the disability pension in 1970 will consist of a flat-rate amount of \$26.53 a month plus 75 per cent of the current value of his retirement pension. Since a retirement pension will not yet be payable to the applicant calculations will be made for one as though he had become eligible for such a pension at the time he became disabled.

A person receiving a disability pension cannot make contributions to the Canada Pension Plan as long as he receives the pension. At 65 his disability pension is automatically replaced by a retirement

pension. Should a contributor die while receiving a disability pension, survivor's benefits become payable to his widow and children.

The plan also provides benefits for the dependent children of a disabled contributor. For each child up to four, \$26.53 a month will be paid in 1970. For each additional child, half that amount will be paid. Total payments for the children are divided equally among them. Payment will begin at the same time as the contributor's disability pension, and will end when the child is no longer eligible or when the contributor stops receiving a disability pension.

LOGS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

Staff of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Pembroke District, recently retrieved several sunken logs of considerable age from Grand Lake. Parts of the logs were forwarded to the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto for study by forestry students in their wood-technology course to ascertain the amount of deterioration that has taken place.

The logs were probably cut by the J.R. Booth Lumber Company about 1910 and were part of a holding-boom at the foot of Grand Lake when they apparently became waterlogged and sank.

Almost all the creeks and rivers of Pembroke District contain such evidence of the development of the logging industry in the Ottawa Valley. To canoeists and fishermen, however, "deadheads" and sunken logs are a dangerous nuisance, not a subject for historical research. (A "deadhead" is a partly submerged log with only the top showing above water.)

LOG TRANSPORTATION

The use of natural waterways was the only economical means of moving logs in the late 1800s and in the 1900s until the advent of the truck haul. The last drive in Pembroke Forest District occurred in 1959, when Consolidated Paper Corporation brought their logs down the Petawawa River to the Ottawa.

Numerous efforts, both successful and unsuccessful, have been made to make a commercial operation out of salvaging these "lost" logs, which are usually white pine and have lost little of their value as high quality sawlogs.

All the logs prepared for the drive have been "hammer marked" with the registered company mark. Ownership of the stamped log remains with the company whose mark it bears and salvage of them must have the approval of the company. Logs that bear no stamp mark and that have been abandoned by their owners, and logs that bear the stamp mark of companies whose charter has expired, are considered the property of the Crown. Approval must be arranged with the department of lands and forests for salvage of sunken logs owned by the Crown.