

While the provinces surrendered their power to act in this field they did not do it blindly but in the light of rather precise information on the use the dominion would make of the power.

The new conference will consider a dominion proposal for compulsory contributory old age pensions. Presumably that also would require a constitutional amendment and before assenting the provinces will want and get full information on what is proposed. On the position regarding income taxes temporarily ceded by the provinces under a wartime agreement the most complicated ~~negotiations~~ negotiations will be involved if any permanent arrangement is to be reached either to leave the field to the federal government or to return part of it to the provinces under some arrangement which would assure a uniform total rate all across the country.

Much water has flown under the dam ~~since~~ since 1940 when the Royal Commission on Dominion-provincial relations made its ambitious report backed by volumes of statistical and economic research. Some of the information on which the commission based its recommendations is out of date, economic conditions have changed, and some of its recommendations have been placed in effect. At the same time it is likely the report will be the basis on much of the discussion and some of the conclusions reached.

Here are its principal proposals with brief notes on ~~the~~ developments in the interval:

The dominion to assume full responsibility for employable unemployed: already done in part through unemployment insurance.
The dominion to handle contributory old age pensions, if decided upon: One of the questions for the conference;
the dominion to ~~take~~ take over all provincial debts:
No developments in the interval but the financial position of all provinces has improved.