

thing in that direction and at least let us go home with something to show for our day's work.

Mr. RYCKMAN: Before this clause carries I think the attention of the House should be directed to section 2, and I would like to ask who is the joker who puts things over the Solicitor General, the Minister of Public Works and other lawyers in the cabinet. Listen to this, and remember that the Solicitor General said that there was no thought of imposing anything upon the provinces:

The receipt of a pension shall not by itself constitute a disqualification from voting at any provincial or municipal election.

Will someone kindly tell the House what authority we have, sitting here so solemnly and importantly, to legislate for provincial and municipal elections in any province of Canada? There is no use stultifying ourselves by inserting a clause which is plainly beyond the competence of this parliament in an act of this kind.

Mr. CANNON: My friend is referring to paragraph 2 of clause 8. We are not imposing anything on the provinces, and the argument I made while discussing clauses 4 and 5 still holds good. This bill is subject to the consent of the provinces to the conditions therein contained. In certain provinces of Canada a man is disqualified from voting if he is in receipt of charity from the government, and this paragraph simply means that this is not charity in that sense, that a man who is looked after under this scheme and who receives the pension mentioned is not to be disqualified for so doing. This is no imposition on any province but simply says that this is not charity but a pension scheme. A pension is not charity, and that is the only meaning of paragraph 2, which I am quite sure my hon. friend knows.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Is it not a matter for the provinces to declare that this shall not be called charity? We have no right to say whether or not it is.

Mr. CANNON: It is for the provinces to decide who will be the electors in provincial or municipal elections, without a doubt. But if under provincial law certain persons are disqualified if they are in receipt of charity, it is perfectly within our purview to interpret this bill as meaning that a pension is not a charity, and that is all we are doing.

Mr. GEARY: Surely that is wrong.

Mr. ADSHEAD: In connection with subsection (f) may I suggest to the Minister of Labour that the word "net" placed before

the word "income" would clear it all up. If the person to whom my hon. friend referred as receiving \$200 or \$300 a year has to pay most of that amount out, it would hardly be fair to take the total gross amount off the pension. I think the insertion of this word would clear it up.

Mr. HEAPS: May we have a pronouncement as to whether the government are prepared to make the increase suggested?

Mr. HEENAN: I thought a pronouncement had been made some time ago. We do not want to take any chance of an excuse for the defeat of this bill. I am sorry I have not a little more coöperation in this bill from my friends of the Labour party, because like myself they supported this measure last session and we agreed that it was not the last word in an old age pension scheme. I thought my friends were blamed by hon. gentlemen opposite for fathering this bill, but notwithstanding that, the bill was defeated in another chamber. I am interested at present in having this principle established; we have the endorsement of a great many labour unions, and again I ask especially my labour friends to accept the bill and get the principle established.

Mr. BARBER: I would like the minister to explain subsection (a).

Mr. HEENAN: As the hon. member no doubt knows, a woman who marries an alien loses her British nationality, and if she becomes a widow she reverts back to that nationality under the act; that is all.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Since this bill was brought down I happened to read the report of the last Imperial Conference, which contains a clause to which I should like to call the attention of the government. In connection with overseas settlement the report says:

The sub-committee agreed as to the advantages of co-ordination throughout the empire in social insurance schemes, such as health insurance, and widows' and orphans' and old age pensions, and they suggested that future legislation on this subject should be drafted in such a manner as to facilitate reciprocity. As a first step towards this end it was suggested that an endeavour should be made, if necessary with the aid of financial adjustments between the governments concerned, to ameliorate the position of migrants in regard to old age pensions.

It would seem that there should be inserted in this bill a clause making it possible for those who have not lived here for twenty years to receive some benefit. I recognize that, as suggested in this report, there would have to be certain financial adjustments as between Great Britain and this