

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 16, 1951

The house met at two o'clock.

POST OFFICE

PRIVILEGE, MR. RINFRET—INCLUSION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN MAPS PUBLISHED IN ADVERTISEMENTS

Hon. Edouard Rinfret (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I hold in my hand a copy of *New Liberty* of October, 1951, to which the hon. member for Queens (Mr. McLure) directed the attention of the house yesterday. I must apologize to the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island for the fact that the advertisement shows only that part of Prince Edward Island that is represented by the hon. member for Queens. I must, however, assure him that the maps in all the other advertisements that were published in the newspapers show the whole of Prince Edward Island. I am sending him over an advertisement that appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* of August 29, 1951, and the French copy of the print that I hold in my hand.

Mr. Gibson: Does it show the post office?

Mr. Rinfret: The best part of Prince Edward Island is also shown on it.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT

Second report of special committee on the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, and amendments thereto.—Mr. Fulford.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCREASE IN BASIC RATES OF PENSION UNDER PENSION ACT

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make an announcement with regard to increase in pensions under the Pension Act.

A little less than a month ago I announced the intention of the government to introduce, at this session, legislation dealing with an increase in pension for disability or death under the Pension Act. After reviewing the situation and considering recent representations received from the Canadian Legion and the National Council of Veterans Associations in Canada, the government has decided to increase basic rates of pensions as follows:

Hon. members know that a pensioner who is totally disabled, as the result of his war service, receives a 100 per cent pension, which at the present time is \$94 monthly. This will be increased to \$125, which represents a 33½ per cent increase.

If married, he now receives \$31 monthly additional pension for his wife, and this will be increased to \$45, which is an increase of 45 per cent. The intention of the government is to make generous provision for the establishment of the family unit, and thus the present pension of \$125 monthly for man and wife will be increased to \$170. Additional pension for the first child will be increased from \$19 to \$20 monthly and the rates for other children remain unchanged.

The pensioned widow, who now receives \$75 monthly, will have her award increased to \$100, which is also 33½ per cent. Hon. members will recall that by the amendments of June 1951 the pension for the children of such widows was increased to orphan rates and will now be \$40 monthly for the first child instead of \$38 and remain at \$30 and \$24 for the second and subsequent children respectively.

Hon. members will probably wish to know whether the unemployability supplement is to be continued or not. As I explained last session, the entire question of compensation for disability or death was being closely studied, and it was not considered feasible at the time to come to a final decision, but it was decided to introduce a measure to give immediate relief to pensioners who were unable to work, and whose disability pensions were the sole or principal sources of income. It has served a most useful purpose and afforded very valuable information regarding the needs of the group who were most seriously disabled in the service of our country.

When the new scale of pensions goes into effect, payments of unemployability supplement will cease. Under the present rates, a 100 per cent pensioner, married, gets \$125, and if unemployable gets \$40 additional, or a total of \$165. Under the proposed rates he will receive \$170. A 100 per cent pensioner, single, now receives \$94, plus \$20 unemployability supplement if he is unemployable, a total of \$114, and under the proposed scale will receive \$125.