

advantage of it within twenty-five or thirty years will not be able to make very substantial contributions to the fund. We should begin to think of making some arrangement that will be satisfactory to all concerned. The Dominion Government is assuming more and more obligations that were formerly carried by the provinces. I am somewhat surprised at the elimination from the Bill of the words I have quoted, and I suspect that before long we shall realize more clearly the direction in which we are headed.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Perhaps the Hon. the Minister of Labour will be able to ascertain between now and next session the length of time that old age pensions schemes have been in force in other countries and what the results have been. When we are discussing a matter of this kind in future such information would be very helpful.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: If the House will pardon my acting as though we were in Committee, I would say in regard to the suggestion of the honourable gentleman from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique), that I should be glad to see it carried out. I can assure him, however, that for some years past the Department of Labour has kept closely in touch with these matters, and has been adding to the information gathered from year to year. I shall be very glad to try to have for him next session a comprehensive picture of the whole situation.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: A new situation arises in connection with this measure. Some of the provinces pass on a portion of the expenditure to the municipalities, and I think this would be a good time for the Federal Government to intimate to the Provincial Governments that they ought to carry at least a little of this burden which, constitutionally, perhaps, belongs entirely to them. The municipalities at considerable expense establish homes for their aged people and take care of their indigents. I think that when the Federal Government offered to contribute 50 per cent of the expense of this fund it was not intended that part of the expense should be passed on to the municipalities. Of course that is a provincial question. However, when the Federal Government assumes 75 per cent of the cost, the provinces that adopt the measure and contribute the other 25 per cent should do so without further burdening municipalities that are already burdened almost to the limit of their endurance.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Agreed.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I gather from the remarks of the right honourable gentleman from Eganville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) that what he says applies exclusively to Ontario. I think the Prime Minister of Ontario was the only Premier in Canada who accepted the scheme of old age pensions with that reservation.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: No. There is one other province.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I should be interested to know which one it is.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: There is one in the West, but which it is, I cannot state positively.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I am under the impression that there is no other; the honourable Minister is under the impression that there is one. But the point is this: to what extent will the Federal Government impose its will upon the provinces along the line suggested by my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Graham), requiring them to change their laws concerning the application of old age pensions within their jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I am quite sure that when the Province of Saskatchewan came under the present plan on the 1st of May, 1928, the same policy of contribution by the municipalities, or a similar one, was invoked.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

CHICOUTIMI HARBOUR LOAN BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY moved the second reading of Bill 141, an Act to provide for a further loan to the Chicoutimi Harbour Commissioners.

Hon. L. C. WEBSTER: Honourable members, I rise merely to say a few words in support of this Bill. Those who have not visited the port of Chicoutimi recently would be surprised to find considerable activity and considerable change in that old French Canadian settlement. As honourable members are aware, Chicoutimi is at the head of the Saguenay river, about 120 miles from its mouth. It has, or boasts of having, the youngest Harbour Commission in Canada. This Commission is carrying on very successfully and is unique in