

*Old Age Pensions*

from his earnings. I think we may feel perfectly safe in leaving it to the authorities to carry out the regulations in conformity with equity and justice.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Will my hon. friend, as an expert in old age pension legislation, say that this act follows the act at present in force in the old country?

Mr. GLEN: This clause 9 was not in the act of 1904.

Mr. BRADY: I would like to ask the Solicitor General what is the connotation of the phrase "dwelling house?" In British Columbia many of the fishermen who possess land live habitually in a boat. That is their home. Would "dwelling house" include such a place?

Mr. CANNON: I do not think there is any doubt that the words "dwelling house" would include that.

Mr. BRADY: The dictionary definition does not cover it.

Mr. CANNON: Again that would be a question for the pension authority to decide, but notwithstanding the findings of my hon. friend in the dictionary which he consulted, I have no doubt that any person who would represent to the pension authority that his dwelling place was a boat would not be forced by the pension authority, notwithstanding any dictionary, to live anywhere else. It would be considered as the pensioner's regular dwelling place. I had a somewhat similar case in our city of Quebec, where it was decided that if a person lived habitually in a boat which was moored to a wharf within a certain constituency, he was entitled to vote as being a dweller in the constituency.

Mr. BRADY: I regret exceedingly, Mr. Chairman, that the Solicitor General should consider that every question asked has an ulterior motive. I had no intention of prolonging the discussion or objecting to the passing of this clause. I asked my question simply for elucidation.

Mr. CANNON: I may say to my hon. friend that I did not impute to his remarks any ulterior motive. His suggestion may be due to the instance which I quoted, but only when my hon. friend gave it that interpretation did it occur to me that he might have got that impression. I just quoted the instance as an experience I had had in my profession as a lawyer, and my hon. friend may rest assured that when he has known me a little longer he will realize that I do not impute motives to anybody.

[Mr. Glen.]

Mr. STEVENS: May I ask the minister in charge of the bill, as one layman speaking to another, a plain, simple question? Let us get away from some of this technical, legal phraseology. In the case of an applicant for a pension owning a house, irrespective of what it is—we will say it is a small home—can he receive the pension and continue to live in the house without either transferring the house to the pension authority or suffering any deduction from his pension?

Mr. HEENAN: Yes, it is intended that he shall get the full pension and still reside in his own home.

Mr. STEVENS: There is no question about that?

Mr. HEENAN: No question.

Mr. STEVENS: Then this transfer is purely optional?

Mr. HEENAN: Surely.

Mr. STEVENS: I would like that made perfectly clear so that no dispute can arise later.

Mr. HEENAN: If that is not perfectly clear, we will make it clear in the regulations.

Mr. McQUARRIE: It is meaningless altogether as it stands.

Mr. STEVENS: I do wish to keep away from a technical argument in this matter. Will the minister, as the one in charge of this bill, and speaking for the government, say that the intention is clear and definite that an applicant for a pension who owns a house may continue to live in that house without transferring it to the pension authority and without suffering any deduction from his pension?

Mr. HEENAN: Without transferring it?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes.

Mr. HEENAN: Oh, no.

Mr. CANNON: My hon. friend asks, if a person owns a dwelling house and refuses to transfer it to the pension authority, will the value of his interest in that dwelling house be deducted from the pension he receives? There is no doubt it will be deducted. But this clause provides simply for the case where the owner of a dwelling house transfers his interest in it to the pension authority, and the pension authority recoups itself after his death. But if the pensioner refuses to transfer that interest, clause 9 does not cover that case.

Mr. STEVENS: Then it is not optional, as indicated by my hon. friend from Comox-