

this sort should be treated as if the person had continued to live here for the twenty years.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be bobbing up and down all the time answering questions, but I think my hon. friend will realize that we must draw a line somewhere. This bill is not intended to provide that the man who leaves this country for the United States and stays there until he gets too old to work shall come back here and then get a pension from Canada.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should like to have an answer from the minister to the question I raised last night in regard to certain immigrants from England who might be qualified under the old country scheme, who come to this country and forfeit any rights they have in the old country to a pension, and who would not have any rights under this scheme short of twenty years' residence in Canada. It was suggested at the Imperial conference that an arrangement could be made by which there would be some sort of reciprocity between this country and the old country, and in that case the old country could give a financial consideration to cover its proportion of the period. I would submit to the minister that this is not a matter that would interfere with the passage of the bill through the Senate. It involves no extra expenditure by this country in any way. It would simply mean the insertion of a clause in the bill providing that in the case of such immigrants it might be possible that the British government would advance certain amounts of money; that the time spent by the immigrant over there would be, as it were, credited to him. I think in view of the very large number of old country immigrants coming to Canada it would be wise to have a provision of this kind, and I would like to ask if it is not possible still to insert such a provision.

Mr. HEENAN: I think there is a great deal in my hon. friend's contention, but as I said before, we want to get the principle of old age pensions established before we load the bill up with further provisions. Let us get the scheme into operation and see how it works out.

Mr. IRVINE: If we cannot insert a single provision in the bill, why not just come here and say, this is an old age pension bill, and then let us pass it and send it on to the Senate, and then when it comes back here, we can make a bill of it.

Mr. HEENAN: Perhaps that is what my hon. friend would do.

[Mr. Smoke.]

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The proposal I am making, Mr. Chairman, would not involve one dollar of expense to this country. It is simply to insert a clause by which we could enter into an arrangement with Great Britain that, if they wished to do so, they could advance certain moneys, and the immigrant would benefit under that arrangement. This is not something that I am proposing. It is something that was proposed at the Imperial conference, and it is a suggestion that was accepted by the government of Canada at the Imperial conference. Now that we are drafting this bill, I do not think it is too much to ask that a clause along this line should be inserted, which would leave us free to enter into an arrangement of that kind in the future.

Mr. CANNON: My hon. friend will realize that we have had a whole lot of trouble with this bill coming from the other side on account of our having to come to certain agreements with the provinces, and on account of our lack of jurisdiction over the provinces. His suggestion, which certainly contains a whole lot of good, immediately opens up another difficulty, that of our legislation having the effect of encroaching, so to speak, upon the imperial jurisdiction.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Oh no, not at all.

Mr. CANNON: Certainly. Here in this parliament we pass legislation which concerns us. My hon. friend suggests that we should have a clause saying that we are going to enter into an agreement with the Imperial government on certain subjects. My hon. friend has been very well disposed towards this bill both last year and this year, and has endeavoured to put the legislation through this House and through parliament, and if I might be allowed to suggest it to him, would it be wise to open up this question now of an agreement with the imperial authorities on certain subjects, when that matter could be taken up later?

Mr. SMOKE: The answer given by the Minister of Labour to my question is like many of the answers given to us on this side of the House—no answer at all. It is the duty of any country to take care of its old people. The point whether a person happens to have lived in Canada for twenty years makes no difference whatever. If a person over seventy is unable to provide for himself, the country has to take care of him. If a person lived two years in the United States fifteen years ago, and comes back here, why should he not be taken care of under this bill, the