

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would remind my honourable friend that when I introduced the Old Age Pension Act I stated that the British Parliament had passed similar legislation, which later on had been followed by a contributory scheme. I suggested that Canada would perhaps follow in the same path. I gave it as my own opinion that the time would come when the scheme, broadening out, would have to rest on a special levy either from the taxpayers generally or from the beneficiaries. There are two alternatives; it may come from the Treasury, or in part by contribution of the employees, the employers and the various Governments of the country.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: May I remind the honourable gentleman that the question was elaborated by the honourable member from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique) in reference to a scheme wherein insurance companies being brought in would help to form and administer organizations bearing a certain share of the old age pension.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Lynch-Staunton the debate was adjourned.

ROOT VEGETABLES BILL

FIRST READING

Bill 5, an Act to amend the Root Vegetables Act.—Hon. Mr. Dandurand.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 14, 1929.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NIAGARA FALLS CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved:

Resolved: that it is expedient that Parliament do approve of the Convention and Protocol for the preservation of Niagara Falls by the construction of remedial works and for the experimental withdrawal of additional water from the Niagara River, which was signed at Ottawa on the Second day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-nine, on behalf of His Majesty for the Dominion of Canada by the Plenipotentiary named therein, and that this House do approve of the same.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, I would like to mention the major features embodied in the Niagara Convention and Protocol which has just been completed between Canada and the United States looking to the preservation of the scenic beauty of Niagara Falls and Rapids.

At the outset I may say that the successful outcome of the negotiations was in a large measure due to the complete co-operation which had been maintained throughout with the authorities of the Province of Ontario and with the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. In all steps taken there has been complete harmony of viewpoint and action between the Dominion and the Provincial authorities.

This Convention represents the culmination to date of the investigatory work which the Governments of Canada and the United States have had under way in the Niagara River for the past two years for the purpose of determining how the scenic beauty of Niagara Falls and Rapids can best be maintained, and by what means and to what extent the impairment thereof, by erosion or otherwise, can be overcome, and, consistently with the preservation of the scenic beauty of the Falls and Rapids, of determining what quantity of water might be permitted to be diverted from the river for power purposes. Effect is being given by this Convention to the recommendations of the Special International Niagara Board, appointed in 1926 by the two Governments to investigate and report on this matter.

It has been a matter of common knowledge that the Horseshoe Falls at Niagara has been progressively receding upstream from year to year. Periodic surveys of this crestline have been made from the year 1764 to date and show that the recession of the escarpment has been at the average rate of some 3.7 feet per year, the maximum rate taking place in the notch of the Horseshoe Falls. This recession of the falls, in conjunction with the extremely low flows which were prevalent in recent years on the Great Lakes, culminating in 1926 in the lowest flow recorded in sixty-seven years, and in conjunction also with the withdrawal of water for power purposes, had left bare the flanks of the Canadian Falls and had materially thinned out the flow over the American Falls, to the very serious detriment of the scenic beauty of the spectacle as a whole.

The Convention provides in Article 1 that remedial works shall be constructed in the Niagara River above the Niagara Falls, designed to distribute the water of the river