

Mr. CANNON: Or to force the provinces to make payment. There is no doubt about that, but clause 3 which is now under consideration meets that situation exactly. In view of the fact that we cannot force the provinces into an agreement, we say the governor in council may enter into an agreement with the lieutenant governor of any province. We cannot say that he will, because we cannot force the provinces to make the agreement. There cannot be coercion. It can only be permissive.

Mr. ARTHURS: What does the word "may" mean?

Mr. CANNON: My hon. friend says this legislation is simply legislation to allow for something that might happen; but the second factor of the clause is not to be lost sight of, and that relates to what happens after the agreement is entered into.

Mr. LADNER: Does the rule contemplate such a case as this?

Mr. CANNON: If the agreement is entered into the clause becomes applicable. Otherwise why should we have any clause?

Mr. BOYS: I rise to a point of order. This discussion is out of order. The decision of the Chair has been given and the only remedy now is to appeal from the decision of the Chair.

Mr. CANNON: The Chairman gave a decision and I understood he withdrew this decision to give my hon. friend the right to speak, I have the same privilege as my hon. friend from Vancouver South and if he admits a decision has been given, all right.

Mr. BOYS: I am appealing to you, Mr. Chairman. You gave your decision and the only relief is to accept the decision or to appeal from it.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. gentleman is perfectly right. I gave my decision and this discussion is out of order.

Mr. ARTHURS: I move that this clause be changed, that the Dominion accept one hundred per cent responsibility for the obligations under this act and that the expenditure be not more than \$12,000,000 for the present year, the amount stated by the minister.

Mr. McGIBBON: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. I desire to point out, as I said a year ago, that I am in favour of the principle of the bill—

The CHAIRMAN: I rule that the motion of the hon. member for Parry Sound is out of order for the reasons I have given.

Mr. ARTHURS: The minister stated that His Excellency had been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, and he also stated that \$12,000,000 would be required. My motion is that the Dominion accept full responsibility for the \$12,000,000. There is no increase—

Mr. CANNON: I understand the Chairman has given his decision.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. McQUARRIE: While I do not propose to discuss your decision, Mr. Chairman, I may say that it is quite contrary to the view held by a very high authority, namely, the Premier of British Columbia, who criticised us very severely on the hustings because we had not put forward such amendments when the bill was in committee.

The minister has stated that this bill was endorsed by the electors. I do not think he is correct. Speaking for my own province, there was not a single constituency where this particular bill was approved. It is true that the principle of old age pensions met with approval; I do not contend to the contrary; I suppose that is true of the whole Dominion. However, so far as British Columbia is concerned, the people did not endorse the present proposal.

Mr. MILLAR: In what form did they show approval or disapproval?

Mr. McQUARRIE: I take it that my statement is justified by the electoral results in British Columbia. I attended a great many meetings where this bill came up for discussion, and the audience made it very clear that they did not approve of it at all, in fact at many meetings where the question was asked, is there any one present who is in favour of the old age pensions bill which was proposed at the last session of parliament, not one person stood up to say that he or she approved of it.

Mr. HEENAN: But, Mr. Chairman, let me point out to the hon. member that the legislature of British Columbia has accepted this bill.

Mr. McQUARRIE: And the premier of that province is the same hon. gentleman who criticised us for not moving amendments to the bill last session! As a matter of fact I think it is no secret that he hastened to bring in the bill because he expects an election very shortly.

Mr. HEENAN: If every other province takes the same course on the eve of an election, won't we soon have old age pensions throughout the Dominion?