

Canada Pension Plan

ada and saying that 6,300,000 Canadians will be covered by the plan. I have picked one category, farmers, who live a little differently than many other people and do not earn as much as other categories. They are satisfied with a reasonable life, but the fact remains that they are Canadians and should be entitled to be part of the pension plan. Is it correct that 40 per cent of the farmers will be excluded from the plan or will get little if any benefit from it?

Mr. Benson: It is now one o'clock, and during the lunch hour I shall get the income distribution of farmers in Canada, the figures being for farmers who file tax returns. I have that in my department, and will also see if there are d.b.s. figures which I might give the hon. member.

Mr. Pugh: When the minister is searching would he also look for the categorization of farmers?

Mr. Benson: Yes, I will bring in the tax statistics for 1962, which will deal with all farmers who filed tax returns.

The Chairman: It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

The Chairman: The committee is on clause 6 as amended.

Mr. Pugh: The Minister of National Revenue undertook to produce figures for me at this time.

The Chairman: Perhaps we could hear from the hon. member for Comox-Alberni until the minister arrives.

Mr. Barnett: I had one specific question to raise on this clause but it is not related to the matter which was being discussed earlier.

The Chairman: Well, the minister is here now, and perhaps in that case he would be prepared to answer the question posed this morning by the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary.

Mr. Benson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. During the lunch recess I got some figures as to the number of farmers outside the province of Que-

[Mr. Pugh.]

bec who would be covered. Under the federal plan, the total number of farmers outside Quebec is 335,033.

Mr. Rapp: What would that represent as a percentage?

Mr. Benson: I am dealing with figures now. That is under the Canada pension plan outside of Quebec. Of these it is estimated that 52,300 will earn less than \$800 and will not be covered by the Canada pension plan. Now for the breakdown of earnings of farmers who filed tax returns—the figure I gave includes, of course, farmers who do not file tax returns because their incomes are too low. There are estimated to be 22,000 who filed income tax returns and who earn less than \$800.

Mr. Pugh: Is that \$800 net income?

Mr. Benson: Yes. About 22,000 were earning less than \$800; earning between \$800 and \$2,000, 66,000; from \$2,000 to \$3,000, 51,100; between \$3,000 and \$4,000, 32,930; between \$4,000 and \$5,000, 14,560 and over \$5,000, 28,440.

Mr. Pugh: I still say this is a Canada pension plan and I am a little astonished that those Quebec farmers will be excluded. In other words, strictly speaking they are a part of this legislation even though they opt out.

Mr. Benson: This course was taken so as not to confuse the issue with regard to the number covered under the Canada pension plan. The province of Quebec should be responsible for its own statistics; we should not make assumptions with regard to statistics applying to that province. One can say roughly that 25 per cent of the farmers are from the province of Quebec.

Mr. Pugh: According to the dominion bureau of statistics more than 25 per cent of the farmers in Canada receive cash returns from actual sales. This amounts to a gross figure of less than \$1,200. So 25 per cent of our farmers would, I believe, be excluded right off the bat.

Mr. Benson: We may not be taking into account a difference in classification. These farmers classified as farmers by the Department of National Revenue were carrying on farming as a main source of income, whereas those others which the hon. member mentioned may include many who were carrying on farming as an ancillary operation.