

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 7, 1950

The house met at eleven o'clock.

## AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

### CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. A. J. Bater (The Battlefords)** presented the third report of the standing committee on agriculture and colonization, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

### QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

#### CONTROL OF PROPERTY OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS

##### Mr. Hodgson:

How much money was acquired by the government in taking over property of old age pensioners in each of the years 1947, 1948 and 1949, by provinces?

**Mr. Martin:** The question implies that provincial pension authorities which administer the Old Age Pensions Act take possession of property owned by pensioners when pension is granted. Actually no pension authority takes possession of either real or personal property. Under provincial legislation, however, a pension authority may be authorized to control real property owned by pensioners.

At the death of a pensioner a pension authority may file a claim for recovery out of the estate of the pensioner of the amount of pension paid to the pensioner. In making its decision the pension authority must apply section 9(2) of the Old Age Pensions Act, which provides that ". . . no claim shall be made for the recovery of any such debt directly or indirectly out of any part of the pensioner's estate which passes by will or on an intestacy to any other pensioner or to any person who has, since the grant of such pension or for the last three years during which such pension has continued to be paid, regularly contributed to the support of the pensioner by the payment of money or otherwise to an extent which, having regard to the means of the person so having contributed, is considered by the pension authority to be reasonable." In the agreements made under the Old Age Pensions Act the pension authorities are given discretion

to disregard estates where the net value is less than \$2,000 or the first \$2,000 of any estate.

The amounts recovered by provincial pension authorities from the estates of deceased pensioners and the federal share of such amounts for the fiscal years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 were as follows:

Province	1946-47	
	Total	Federal share
Alberta .....	\$ 32,330.76	\$ 24,248.07
British Columbia..	76,685.91	56,674.61
Manitoba .....	101,507.82	75,634.97
New Brunswick ..	1,117.40	838.05
Nova Scotia .....	4,384.95	3,288.71
Ontario .....	179,880.74	134,271.80
P. E. Island .....	2,855.27	2,141.45
Quebec .....	56,066.60	42,049.95
Saskatchewan ....	38,897.67	29,022.47

Province	1947-48	
	Total	Federal share
Alberta .....	\$ 20,493.15	\$ 15,369.86
British Columbia..	93,009.60	68,828.28
Manitoba .....	55,496.42	40,795.94
New Brunswick ..	.....	.....
Nova Scotia .....	10,856.67	8,142.50
Ontario .....	153,465.75	114,907.46
P. E. Island .....	1,726.09	1,294.57
Quebec .....	61,268.43	45,951.32
Saskatchewan ....	40,298.20	30,209.38

Province	1948-49	
	Total	Federal share
Alberta .....	\$ 31,950.45	\$ 23,962.84
British Columbia..	77,657.91	57,418.69
Manitoba .....	61,416.03	45,847.11
New Brunswick ..	165.57	124.18
Nova Scotia .....	4,389.61	3,292.21
Ontario .....	164,609.01	123,235.98
P. E. Island .....	1,163.28	872.46
Quebec .....	41,186.40	30,889.80
Saskatchewan ....	45,634.30	34,189.05

#### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—DISCONTINU- ANCE OF BRANCH LINES

##### Mr. Catherwood:

1. Did the Canadian National Railways cease operations on any of their branch lines during the year 1949?
2. If so, in what provinces did they discontinue these operations?
3. How many miles of line were removed from the system in each province?