

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OLD AGE PENSIONS IN CANADA AS AT MARCH 31, 1931

	Alberta	British Columbia	Manitoba	Ontario	Saskatchewan	North West Territories	Totals
	Act effective Aug. 1, 1929	Act effective Sept. 1, 1927	Act effective Sept. 1, 1928	Act effective Nov. 1, 1929	Act effective May 1, 1928	Order in Council effective Jan. 25, 1929	
Total number of pensioners as at March 31, 1931.....	3,287	5,557	5,834	37,334	5,913	5	57,930
Average monthly pension.....	\$19 53	\$19 03	\$19 25	\$19 15	\$19 37	\$19 83
Total amount of pensions paid during last quarter of fiscal year 1930-31, (period Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 1931).....\$	185,458 80	324,749 04	345,333 89	1,578,840 82	351,591 85	468 44	2,786,442 84
Dominion Government's share of expenditure.....\$	92,729 40	162,374 52	172,666 95	789,420 40	175,795 92	468 44	1,393,455 63
Total amount of pensions paid during fiscal year 1930-31, (period April 1, 1930-Mar. 31, 1931).....\$	683,640 90	1,213,926 60	1,340,551 32	7,068,422 25	1,252,189 02	1,562 74	11,560,292 83
Dominion Government's share of expenditure.....\$	341,820 44	606,963 30	670,275 67	3,534,211 11	626,094 51	1,562 74	5,780,927 77
Total amount of pensions paid since inception of Old Age Pensions Act to March 31, 1931..\$	951,060 94	3,263,563 64	2,989,846 99	9,324,110 57	2,572,131 85	2,120 48	19,102,834 47
Dominion Government's share of expenditure.....\$	475,530 45	1,631,781 81	1,494,923 52	4,662,005 27	1,286,065 91	2,120 48	9,552,477 44

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I should like the honourable Minister to explain to the House the reason for the change in the preamble of the Bill. In the first copy of the Bill sent over to us the preamble read:

Whereas by section three of the Old Age Pensions Act it is amongst other things provided that an agreement may be made with any province for the payment to such province quarterly of an amount equal to one-half of the net sum paid out during the preceding quarter by such province for pensions pursuant to a provincial statute in that behalf; And whereas it is desirable that the system of Old Age Pensions shall be established on a contributory basis as a national undertaking; And whereas, pending the taking of the decennial census of 1931 and obtaining such information therefrom as will enable the necessary actuarial computations to be made, it is desirable and would be of advantage to the Dominion to augment the national contributions: Now, therefore—

—etc. But that declaration of policy, "that the system of old age pensions shall be established on a contributory basis as a national undertaking," is omitted from the copy of the Bill now before us. Will my honourable friend explain why there has been a change

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

of policy, if that is what it implies? The matter is of considerable importance to the country.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Will my honourable friend read the exact words to which he is referring?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This declaration is not to be found in the Bill now before us:

And whereas it is desirable that the system of old age pensions shall be established on a contributory basis as a national undertaking.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: There is a difference between the Bill as introduced in the other House and the Bill as passed there.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When the Bill was introduced in the other House it contained what perhaps was an expression of the present Government's policy, and I should like to know whether the alteration indicates that the Government has abandoned the view that old age pensions should be established on a contributory basis.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I have not perused the debate that took place on this