

Joint Industrial Councils.—One section of the report of the Royal Commission of 1919 on Industrial Relations dealt with shop committees and industrial councils, the Commissioners strongly urging the adoption in Canada of the principles underlying Whitley councils and kindred systems. The subject was also discussed at the National Industrial Conference of 1919. The committee to which the matter was referred made a unanimous report, urging the necessity for greater co-operation between employer and employee and stating their belief that this end could be furthered by the establishment of joint industrial councils. The committee did not consider it wise to recommend any set plan for such councils, but recommended the establishment by the Dominion Department of Labour of a bureau to gather and furnish data for employers and employees, in order to render fullest assistance wherever it is desired to establish such councils. It was not deemed necessary to found a special bureau for this purpose, but the Department, entering heartily into the spirit of the resolution, has continued and extended its study of joint industrial councils and kindred systems. Information respecting such organizations, furnished by employers throughout Canada, has been assembled and published in the form of a special bulletin, which also contains facts regarding similar systems in other countries.

The Old Age Pensions Act, 1927.—An Act respecting Old Age Pensions (17 Geo. V, c. 35), was adopted by the Dominion Parliament at the session of 1927. This legislation was based on the recommendations of a Special Committee of the House of Commons appointed in the sessions of 1924 and 1925 to enquire into a system of old age pensions for Canada.

Under The Old Age Pensions Act, the Governor in Council is authorized to make an agreement with the Government of any province for the payment to such province quarterly of one-half the net sum paid out by such province for old age pensions, pursuant to a provincial statute providing for the payment of such pensions to the persons and under the conditions specified in the Act and the Regulations made thereunder.

Sec. 5 provides that before any such agreement is made with the Province, the scheme for the administration of pensions proposed to be adopted by the province shall be approved by the Governor in Council, and that no change in such scheme shall be made without the consent of the Governor in Council.

Sec. 8 is as follows:—

(1) Provision shall be made for the payment of a pension to every person who, at the date of the proposed commencement of the pension:—

- (a) is a British subject, or, being a widow who is not a British subject, was such before her marriage;
- (b) has attained the age of seventy years;
- (c) has resided in Canada for the twenty years immediately preceding the date aforesaid;
- (d) has resided in the province in which the application for pension is made for the five years immediately preceding the said date;
- (e) is not an Indian as defined by the Indian Act;
- (f) is not in receipt of an income of as much as three hundred and sixty-five dollars (\$365) a year, and
- (g) has not made any voluntary assignment or transfer of property for the purpose of qualifying for a pension.

(2) The receipt of a pension shall not by itself constitute a disqualification from voting at any provincial or municipal election.

Sec. 9 provides that the maximum pension payable shall be \$240.00 yearly, subject to reduction by the amount of the income of the pensioner in excess of \$125.00 a year. A pensioner may transfer to the pension authority his interest in