Section 10.—Pensions for the Aged and the Blind.

The Old Age Pensions Act, 1927.—Legislation respecting Old Age Pensions (R.S.C., 1927, c. 156) was adopted by the Dominion Parliament in 1927. Under the provisions of this statute the Dominion Government reimbursed each province participating in the Dominion scheme to the extent of one-half of the provincial expenditure for old age pensions. An amendment passed at the 1931 session of Parliament (c. 42, Statutes of 1931) provided that the Dominion contribution to the provinces be increased from 50 p.c. to 75 p.c. of the provincial disbursements for old age pensions pursuant to a provincial statute authorizing and providing for the payment of such pensions to the persons and under the conditions specified in the Act and the regulations made thereunder. Following the enactment of the amendment to the Dominion Act, the Dominion Old Age Pensions Regulations were revised and agreements negotiated with the provinces whereby the Dominion contribution of 75 p.c. of provincial disbursements was made effective from Nov. 1, 1931; the provinces have since been reimbursed on this basis.

Sec. 5 of the Act provides that before any agreement is made with a 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 reads 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 yearly, subject to reduction by the amount of the income of the pensioner in excess of $125 a year. The pension authority may accept a transfer of the pensioner's interest in a dwelling house in which he resides, in which case the value of the dwelling is not considered in calculating the amount of pension payable. The pension authority is entitled to recover out of the estate of any deceased pensioner the amount of pension payments with interest at 5 p.c. per annum, compounded annually, subject to the limitation that no claim shall be made for such recovery out of any part of the estate which passes by will or on an intestacy to any other pensioner or to any person who has, since the grant of the pension or for the last three years during which the pension has been paid, regularly contributed to the pensioner's support 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.

Secs. 10 and 12 provide for the distribution of the pension burden among the provinces in which the pensioner has resided during the 20 years immediately preceding the grant of the pension. Secs. 13 and 14 provide for the distribution of the pension burden where a pensioner moves from one province to another after pension has been granted. Sec. 11 provides for the reduction of pension where a pensioner has resided for a portion of the 20 aforementioned years in a province