

recommendations into practical effect required a different type of activity, administrative as distinct from advisory. It recommended that the National Employment Commission be succeeded by a small administrative committee to be entrusted with the practical implementation of National Employment Commission recommendations as approved by the Dominion Government.

Section 10.—Old Age Pensions and Pensions for Blind Persons.

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. 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.

The qualifications required of an applicant for pension are set forth in Sec. 8 of the Act which 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. Subject to certain conditions, 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.

Sec. 11 provides for the reduction of pension where a pensioner has resided for a portion of the 20 aforementioned years in a province with which no agreement has been made. Sec. 15 provides for the suspension of pension where a pensioner has transferred his residence to some place out of Canada. It is provided by Sec. 16 that a pension shall not be subject to alienation or transfer by the pensioner or to seizure in satisfaction of any claim against him.

The Governor in Council was empowered by Sec. 19 of the Act to make regulations pursuant to this section. Existing regulations were revised and approved by Orders in Council dated Dec. 9, 1937, and Feb. 3, 1938.