

Section 12.—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.

The Dominion Old Age Pensions Act is now operative in all provinces and in the Northwest Territories.

The Gold Commissioner of Yukon was given authority, by a Yukon Territorial Council Ordinance passed in 1927, to enter into an agreement with the Dominion Government for the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the Old Age Pensions Act for residents in the Territory. No proposed scheme of administration for adoption in Yukon has been submitted for the approval of the Governor in Council.

Sect. 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 Sect. 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.

Sect. 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.

By Sect. 15 provision is made for the suspension of pension where a pensioner has transferred his residence to some place out of Canada. It is provided by

* Revised under the direction of Dr. W. C. Clark, Deputy Minister, Department of Finance, Ottawa.