

Australian Age Pensions.

Aim and Cost of the Federal Parliament's Recent Act.

BOTH Australia and New Zealand have laid the way for the mother country on old-age pensions. The federal parliament's old-age and invalid pensions act, recently passed, is based on the recommendations of a royal commission appointed in 1905 to inquire into the subject. This act will not come into force until July 1, 1909, for the commonwealth has not at present enough money in hand to pay the first year's outlay. The cost is variously estimated at from \$1,500,000 to \$1,800,000 a year. To meet this sum the federal treasurer has instituted a trust fund, to which will be placed from time to time appropriations out of revenues. A sum of \$750,000 was appropriated shortly after the act was passed. The surplus revenue act will also assist the treasury. The act provides that every person of 65 who is permanently incapacitated for work will be qualified to receive a pension. By proclamation women 60 years may be qualified. In assessing the pension payable the royal commission was to come extent guided by the schemes in force in Victoria, which pays \$8 a week, and in New South Wales and New Zealand, which pay 10s a week. The latter figure was adopted by the act (the installment to be paid fortnightly). A pensioner with other income cannot receive more than \$25 a year, and in no case more than would bring his total income up to \$52 a year. No one with accumulated property worth \$210 or more may receive a pension nor will he benefit himself if he tries to rid himself of it in order to gain relief. Holders of property of lower value than \$210 may receive a pension less deductions of £1 for every £70, unless the property includes a home, when the deduction will only be for capital over £100. The act provides for invalid pensions as well as those for old age. The conditions are in the main the same, but a difference lies in the special qualifications for an invalid. He must be over 16 years of age and permanently incapacitated for work by reason of an accident or by reason of being an invalid. He must have been in "continuous residence" in Australia for five years. The accident or the loss of health must have happened in Australia. He must prove that his ill health is not due to fraud or to his own fault. If he has any claim on his employer or on any one or on any institute for compensation he will get no pension. He must not have deprived himself of property to qualify. If his relatives maintain him, severally or collectively, he is disqualified. When all these special qualifications and the general ones also have been complied with a deputy commissioner or registrar of pensions will annually assess the pension to be paid to the applicant. The administration of the act will necessitate the creation of a new public service department. This department will be under a commissioner, who will have a deputy in each state. The whole of the commonwealth will be divided into districts with a registrar for each. Would-be pensioners must fill in a form before a postmaster, a postmaster, a magistrate, a lawyer, a school teacher, a customs officer, policeman, doctor, or any appointed person. The registrar on receiving the form invests in open court in the locality and adjudicates on the claim. In certain cases an appeal will lie. The creation of a new department does not appear to be justified, for the federal government has a ready-made organization to its help in the post-office throughout Australia, Victoria, by using them, pays about £187,000 a year in pensions at an annual cost of £1,800. New Zealand, through the same channel, distributes over £250,000, at a cost of £4,000 a year, less than 2 per cent. New South Wales, on the other hand, pays its pensions through a bank, and it costs £21,000 annually to disburse about £490,000. The estimated cost of the federal scheme is set down at £2 per cent, which on pensions variously reckoned at from £1,500,000 to £1,800,000, means a cost of between £30,000 and £36,000 a year. It is of course possible that the scheme may be run for that amount, but when the scattered population of Australia is considered it does not seem very probable that the expense rate will equal that of New Zealand, a much closer populated country. The point of economy is trifling compared with the improvidence of passing a money without having the funds available for its consumption. Certainly the act will not be enforced for a year, and the federal treasurer has hopes of saving enough out of the coming year's revenue to meet the bill. Already £750,000 has been appropriated, but that amount has not yet passed through the channels of the 75 per cent of the customs and excise duties, the commonwealth retaining only the balance of 25 per cent. But so many are the present calls on that balance that there seems very little chance of their all being satisfied. However, if the money is not available, it is open to the federal parliament to impose direct taxation. It is quite probable that the Labor party, which has now got this plank of its platform on the statute book, will use every means to make it effective and will not stop at direct taxation. There are no other means of obtaining the money. Its power with the present government is strong. It proved sufficient to rush this measure through both houses in a single night, through both houses with incredible speed. The only states to receive any relief under the scheme is Victoria and New South Wales, whose annual pension bills are about £187,000 and £490,000, respectively. The other states not having in-

troduced any pension scheme will now be required indirectly to provide for their aged poor—London Chronicle.

Foley's Honey and Tar cures coughs quickly, strengthens the lungs and expels colds. Get the genuine in a yellow package, F. J. Hill Drug Co. ("The never substitutes"), Salt Lake City.

That's why it is so hard to hit her. A fly-time poet sang: Now doth the little busy fly Buzz in a fellow's hair, But try to smite her hip and thigh and, lo she isn't there.

THE DOMESTIC FLY.

Timely Facts and Speculation Concerning Interesting Creature. "The common domestic fly," said a man who is no scholar but has managed to pick up many interesting facts, "is altogether too common and too disgusting. She is one of the most interesting animals." "You don't mean 'animals,' is a hunter broken in: 'a fly is not an animal.' " "Then she must be a vegetable or a mineral," said the first speaker, "call her whichever you please, but she is one of the most interesting creatures extant. An industrious female fly lays about 3,000 eggs. There are no indolent flies and few males. The fly does not set after laying; if she did she would be retired from her wonted activity during long or shorter periods without cubation. Her eggs hatch without motherly attention, and it is seldom that one fails to hatch. "The fly has no so many eyes," the man retorted, "as you say, but she can see in all directions at once without turning her head or rolling her eyes."

"This method of getting rid of flies is often employed in restaurants. It is the method used in the railroad restaurant where a passenger hurried in for refreshment, glanced along the display of pies and said: 'Give me a piece of this huckleberry.' 'That ain't huckleberry,' said the waiter (girl), waving her hand over the pie. 'It's custard.' "Up with the hark! is a poetical expression for early rising. If less poetry, the hark doesn't compel you to get up, but the fly does. Besides, the hark is an English name, but the fly is a bird that knows no nationality. If the fly would go away and let you sleep till the hark gets up you would have less cause for complaint. "When we were children we were taught to believe that a fly's foot was a wonderful part of creation—that which was placed flat upon the ceiling of the center and made a tiny vacuum, and that the pressure of the atmosphere around held the fly from falling. Several 'human flies' broke their necks trying to do the same trick with artificial flies' feet before it was discovered and if flies kept their feet clean they couldn't walk on ceilings. "Flies believe that mankind was created for their amusement, and it has always been a question with me which gave a fly the more solid enjoyment—to buzz around your nose and make you get up a few hours earlier in the morning than you want to, or to pester you in the daytime until you rage around the room with a pan-slapper in one hand while she swatches you from behind a door hinge."

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The INDOMITABLE BARGAINS SCHEDULED for MONDAY'S SELLING Will Save Thousands of Dollars for the Great Buying Public of Salt Lake.

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