

Mr. TUCKER: The facts surrounding the purchase of these lands from the official custodian and their resale to veterans are readily available to the public accounts committee, and the Department of Veterans Affairs would welcome the most searching inquiry. Until this has been done I suggest that in fairness to the public servants involved no such charges, impugning the fairness and honesty of those public servants, should have been given such wide publicity.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Right Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Seeing that I was personally attacked this morning in the editorial in question in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, I think it is my right as a member of this free and unfettered parliament to rise on a question of privilege. I intend, sir, to ask the standing committee on public accounts which is now investigating questions having to do with the administration of the custodian of alien enemy property, to subpoena C. George McCullagh, the editor of the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, to substantiate if he can—and he cannot—the vile, foul, malicious, meretricious statements contained in that editorial.

Mr. A. L. SMITH (Calgary West): I also rise to a question of privilege, speaking as a member of the public accounts committee, to inform hon. members of this house that under the able chairmanship of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Isnor) that committee is quite capable of carrying on its affairs without direction from the minister or his loquacious assistant.

Mr. MACKENZIE: My hon. friend apparently is unacquainted with the rules of parliament, which provide that any member of the commons, private member or minister, has the right to appear before any standing committee of this house and make an appeal to that committee, because a committee is only the creature and servant of parliament; and the committee then decides.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Then appear before the committee and make application; we will hear you.

IMMIGRATION

POLISH SOLDIERS—REFERENCE TO EDITORIAL IN WOODSTOCK "SENTINEL REVIEW"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I wish to call attention to an editorial in the Woodstock *Sentinel Review* of May 6, attributing to me statements about Polish soldiers which I denied two days afterwards in a statement to the house. I was complain-

ing about the lack of shipping and the abuses of priority shipping to the exclusion of British born. I have been a friend of the Polish nation. What I said is borne out by evidence before the labour and immigration committee of the other house on May 6.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Second report of standing committee on standing orders—Mr. Bertrand (Prescott).

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

TREASURY BILLS

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario):

1. What were the amounts of treasury bills issued by the following provinces and held by the dominion of Canada on December 31, 1946: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba?

2. What amounts of treasury bills issued by the following provinces and held by the dominion of Canada have been cancelled and forgiven by the dominion subsequent to December 31, 1946: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba?

3. What were the rates of interest on the treasury bills cancelled and forgiven and was any accrued interest cancelled and forgiven? If so, give the amounts forgiven to each province?

4. What amounts of treasury bills have been accepted as refunding from the undermentioned provinces, giving particulars: (a) refunded over a term of years without interest; (b) refunded over a term of years with interest, giving the rates of interest on the latter; (b) charged by the dominion government to each of the provinces, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba?

5. Were any treasury bills issued by any of the undermentioned provinces and held by the dominion of Canada, cancelled and forgiven? If so, give full particulars as to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island?

Mr. MAYHEW:

1. British Columbia—Loans under relief acts, \$34,112,249.99.

Alberta—Loans under relief acts, \$25,862,000; subsidy overpayment, \$350,000; total, \$26,212,000.

Saskatchewan—Loans under relief acts, \$70,668,403.20; loans under Saskatchewan seed grain loans guarantee act 1936, \$2,637,398.15; loans under seed grain loans act 1937, \$7,136,051.09; loans under seed grain loans guarantee act 1938, \$10,605,541.48; loans under war appropriation act re Saskatchewan Power Commission, \$34,560; total \$91,081,953.92.

Manitoba—Loans under relief acts, \$24,734,451.82.