

*Halifax Hotel Property*

will be about 330 accounts affected, and it will be necessary to go back for twenty years to get the information. There is not the slightest objection to bringing it down, but it will be some considerable time before the information can be got together. Perhaps on that basis it might stand as an order for return.

### HALIFAX HOTEL PROPERTY

#### INQUIRY AS TO PURCHASE OR LEASE BY THE GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. BLACK (Cumberland): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice if he is able to give the answer to the questions asked by me on Monday of this week with regard to the purchase of the Halifax hotel.

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): I have not all the details available. An order for a return in this connection was passed on June 21, with respect to which the information available in the Department of Justice has been transmitted to the Secretary of State, who is making inquiries from other departments, because the order covers all properties acquired by any department of government. However, I may say that the purchase of the Halifax hotel with furnishings was completed on June 23, at a price of \$100,000.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is what you call salvage.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I must confess that I do not know what my hon. friend is referring to as salvage.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The public will be interested.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: This is a property that was required for the use of the R.C.M.P.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Salvage; over a hundred years old.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: If my hon. friend wishes to answer the question in my stead, I am perfectly willing to take my seat.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I do not want to be discourteous, of course. If I have been discourteous, I apologize. The interjection flashed through my mind and it was too good to let pass.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: This property was purchased to house ninety men at present lodged and boarded by Wartime Housing Limited in Halifax. Other personnel located in various parts of the city will also be housed in the same property.

[Mr. Crerar.]

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): I wish to thank the minister. If I remember correctly, inquiry was made as to the estimated cost of improvements and furnishings.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: There are practically no alterations required. There is a very small amount—I would not venture to give the exact figure from memory, but it will be in the return which will be available within a day or two—to be paid out for minor repairs in addition to the purchase price, which purchase price included the property and the furnishings.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### THREATENED STRIKE IN CAPE BRETON MINES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. B. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. It will be recalled that there was a strike in five mines on Cape Breton island over a most trivial matter but which resulted in a loss of production of 10,000 tons of coal. I am informed from Sydney that there is a threat hanging over this government or over the powers that be to the effect that if this strike is not settled there will be a two-day strike next week which will mean a loss of 20,000 tons in production. This situation ought to be dealt with. I want to know what the Department of Labour is doing to prevent a repetition of something that should never have been allowed to happen last week. It is serious, and it may be more serious if the situation is not dealt with. To my mind there was not the slightest reason for a cessation of work there.

Mr. MITCHELL: There was a strike in a cafe—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I know the cause of it; what are you doing about it?

Mr. MITCHELL: As soon as we had information of the strike at this particular cafe, I believe in New Glasgow—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The strike I am talking about was in the mines.

Mr. MITCHELL: We immediately sent a conciliation officer and it was agreed among the parties that this came under provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Passing the buck.

Mr. MITCHELL: There was no passing the buck; let that be clearly understood. In view of the observations made by my hon. friend I shall be glad to have one of our conciliation officers look into the matter.