

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 10, 1961

The house met at 11 a.m.

RAILWAY ACT

AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE RAPESEED UNDER GRAIN FREIGHT RATES

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-90, to amend the Railway Act (rapeseed freight rates).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Rapp: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to explain that the purpose of this bill is to apply to rapeseed the freight rates on grain that are applicable under the Crowsnest pass agreement. Primarily, the legislative purpose of this bill is to bring this specific legal meaning of rapeseed into accord with the meaning of rapeseed as used since 1943 by the Department of Agriculture, also the board of grain commissioners, parliament in the Canada Grain Act and the grain trade, as well as by the railways themselves by the present local grain mileage freight rates.

The secondary legislative effects are (1) to apply the Crowsnest pass rates only at the commencement of the August, 1961 season, so there can be no question under section 333 (5) of the Railway Act that the tolls on past shipments of rapeseed are affected retroactively to 1943; (2) to prevent the use of this statutory definition of rapeseed in legal argument on interpretation in other cases.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a second time?

Some hon. Members: Now.

Mr. Speaker: Next sitting of this house.

Mr. Pearson: Why not now?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I think this measure is of sufficient importance to do so now. I do not know why we could not deal with it now.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; the rules do not permit the measure to be advanced more than one stage in one day except by unanimous consent, and the mover has not given his consent.

Mr. Rapp: I do not have a bill.

STARRED QUESTIONS

D.V.A. OFFICE, PETERBOROUGH

Question No. 288—Mr. Pitman:

1. Has the Department of Veterans Affairs received any request to have a D.V.A. office opened in Peterborough?

2. If so, when, and from what source did this request come?

3. Has any decision been made by the Department of Veterans Affairs?

4. If so, what has been the decision of the Department of Veterans Affairs?

Mr. H. F. Jones (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answers to this question are as follows:

1. There already is an office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Peterborough.

2. On April 12 representatives of the Canadian Legion spoke to the minister.

3 and 4. The request of the Legion concerned the sending of a welfare officer to Peterborough. This matter is under consideration.

SICK MARINERS FUND

Question No. 298—Mr. McWilliam:

1. What is the amount presently in the sick mariners fund, and what was the amount in this fund at the end of December 1957?

2. How many persons are presently benefiting from this fund, and what was the number that received benefits for the year 1957?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer to this question is as follows:

1. There is no special sick mariners fund. Any payments are made out of a vote in the estimates.

2. There were 129,934 crew members on vessels paying sick mariners dues in 1957, and 141,743 crew members in 1960. These crews were all eligible for treatment.

AIRPORTS, GLOUCESTER MUNICIPALITY AND BATHURST, N.B.

Question No. 305—Mr. Habel:

1. Has the municipality of Gloucester or the town of Bathurst, made an application for the establishment of an airport in either community?

2. Has the department decided to construct an airstrip in either of these communities?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer to parts 1 and 2 of this question is that the municipality of Gloucester and the town of Bathurst have submitted a joint resolution regarding the