

Inquiries of the Ministry

for reconsideration of the demand that payments under the Royal Canadian Mounted Police contract be increased?

The answer is, yes, we have received them from four municipalities. Then there was this further question:

If this request has been made, may we be informed whether favourable action is to be taken?

I presume by that the hon. gentleman means whether we would give effect to the request. In reply to that question, I would say that most careful consideration was given to this whole matter before we reached the decision that we have reached. No further facts have been brought to our attention which would seem to warrant a reconsideration of that decision.

Mr. Fulton: May I ask a supplementary question? Were he and his department aware, in the consideration that they gave to it, of the fact that the demand for further payment was received by these municipalities after their budget and their tax rates had been set and that under our municipal act there is no provision for anything in the way of supplementary estimates? Could the minister reconsider whether or not this could be deferred for this year?

Mr. Garson: Upon the point which my hon. friend has raised, we reached our decision, if I remember correctly, on April 4, 1955, and it was communicated immediately to the proper authorities through the proper channels in British Columbia. If there were any delays after that, I do not think we are responsible for them. I think it is apparent that this is a matter of detail into which it would be more convenient for us to go on the justice estimates.

FERRY SERVICE

YARMOUTH—BAR HARBOR—INAUGURATION OF SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings inquired yesterday if the damage to the gears of the *Bluenose* occurred on the first day of the trials, and also asked how long it would take to complete the trials.

The engine trials started on June 22 and the engines and gears were turned over slowly for approximately two hours. A trial of about four hours was carried out on June 23, when the propellers were driven through the gears from idling speed to approximately half speed. The machinery was shut down and the gears opened up for examination in

the evening. Accordingly, the damage was discovered on the second day.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I understand the trials of the main machinery, that is, dock trials, full power trials, speed trials, steering trials, stabilizer trials, auxiliary machinery trials and all the other miscellaneous trials of the equipment and machinery on board the ship require approximately 14 days to complete if everything goes well.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CIVILIAN USE OF LONG BRANCH RIFLE RANGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Pallett (Peel): Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of National Defence come to any conclusion with respect to representations made on behalf of the corporation of the township of Toronto to release part of the Long Branch rifle ranges for necessary and urgent municipal services?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Pallett: If the minister has not come to a conclusion, would he then consider coming to a favourable decision in the light of the representations made by the corporation of the township of Toronto?

Mr. Campney: The whole subject has been under consideration for some time, and still is. When a decision has been made, I will be glad to make it known.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REPORTED NEW PRIVATE CAR FOR USE OF PRESIDENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. W. Hodgson (Victoria, Ont.): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport. Has a new private car been built for the president of the Canadian National Railways, Donald Gordon?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many cars are in the possession of the Canadian National Railways, and as I do not carry that information with me day by day I shall have to make inquiries and let the hon. member know.

Mr. Hodgson: A supplementary question. I should like to know the cost, and what they did with the old one.