

Inquiries of the Ministry

used by Canadian trawlers. Following this experimental stage we shall decide, and so will the industry, whether further capital investment should be made in this type of vessels.

Mr. Crouse: Would the minister tell the house for what period these foreign ships have been engaged? For what length of time have they been chartered?

Mr. Robichaud: I did not say they had been engaged. I said negotiations were now under way to charter such vessels, and it is hoped they will operate for a period of approximately nine months.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OVER NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister tell us on what date he expects to complete the transfer of the national employment service to himself as minister from the unemployment insurance commission?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the effective date is April 1, as I recollect.

Mr. MacEwan: Can the minister give the house any idea as to the number, if any, of additional employees who will be working directly under him in the national employment service headquarters in Ottawa?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to get that information.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Since several small contractors, both in western Canada and in the eastern part of the country, will not have completed by March 15 houses built under the winter works incentive program, could the minister tell us whether projects completed shortly after that date will nevertheless be recognized by his department and whether the contractors or the purchasers of those houses will benefit from the \$500 which the government or Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation grant in that respect?

[Mr. Robichaud.]

[*Text*]

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): We have not reached any decision as yet to extend the period. Usually toward the end of the period we take a hard look at the situation and see whether there are circumstances which would justify an extension.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Could the Minister of Labour tell us, for instance, whether the department will consider the fact that the work has already begun, even if it has not been completed by March 15? The minister will admit there are solid grounds for those people's claims.

[*Text*]

Mr. MacEachen: We shall be glad to take under advisement the proposal made by the hon. member but it would be premature at this time to announce any decision.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**REQUEST FOR STAMP COMMEMORATING BIRTHDAY OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General, my first to him since he assumed that portfolio. Encouraged as I am by the Prime Minister's interest in commemorating Sir Wilfred Grenfell, will the Postmaster General give consideration to commemorating Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday, admitting that we have lost the exact date, by issuing a stamp in the year which commemorates the birthday of that great statesman?

[*Translation*]

Hon. René Tremblay (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, although our program for the issue of various commemorative stamps is quite heavy, I shall look into the hon. member's suggestion and find out to what extent it could be taken into account.

[*Text*]

INQUIRY AS TO STAMP COMMEMORATING DOMINION DAY

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Perron (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Postmaster General.