

## SIR FREDERICK BANTING

INQUIRY AS TO MISSING AEROPLANE ON WHICH  
SIR FREDERICK WAS A PASSENGER

On the orders of the day.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to inquire of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), or perhaps more properly of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston), if the government has received any information other than what is contained in the morning papers with respect to the reported loss of a plane in which Sir Frederick Banting was said to be a passenger.

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): There is a message on my desk now and I was inquiring into its authenticity just before I had to leave rather hurriedly for the chamber. I shall make further inquiry and let my hon. friend have any definite information I am able to obtain.

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Munitions and Supply): Just before I came in I had word from the Department of Transport that the plane has been found. It is on a point of a bay on the direct route between Canada and Botwood. There is a message written on the snow which indicates that someone on board the plane is alive at least. A plane has been sent out equipped with skis which will be capable of landing there and it is probable that there will be definite word before the afternoon is over.

[*Later:*]

REPORT OF AEROPLANE ACCIDENT WITH LOSS OF  
ALL ON BOARD EXCEPT PILOT

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should like to give to the house the latest information that has come to hand with reference to the aircraft disaster in Newfoundland. I am afraid it brings extremely bad news to Canada. The message is from Wing Commander Gordon, Newfoundland airport, to headquarters, Eastern Air Command, Halifax:

The pilot Mackey is alive; the others are dead. Two trappers are at the aircraft. Aircraft dropped more emergency rations to party. Moth skiplane en route from St. Johns, Newfoundland, to Newfoundland air port.

I believe that is a Newfoundland government plane. The memorandum I have goes on to say:

The Moth skiplane will proceed to the scene of the crash as soon as possible. Two skiplanes from Ottawa Air Station are also proceeding to Newfoundland to bring out the pilot and deceased.

For the Department of National Defence I wish to express the deepest regret at the

passing of Sir Frederick Banting, who was himself an officer of the department. He has been rendering invaluable professional services to Canada, and he has also been serving the country by devoting his outstanding abilities to research—not merely abstract research but research applied practically to the problems which face us in this time of war. In fact, the trip he was making had been necessitated thereby. I know that all the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the defence forces will join with me in this expression of deep regret, and in the most heartfelt sympathy to Lady Banting and family and, as well, to the relatives and friends of the others who perished—Navigator William Bird of Kidderminster, Worcester, England, and William Snailham, of Bedford, Nova Scotia.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with your permission and that of the house, I should like to supplement the words of the Minister of National Defence. On behalf both of the government and of hon. members of this house, may I say what a shock it has been to us all to receive the sad intelligence which has just been imparted to the house. May I also express our deep sympathy with the relatives of those brave and gallant men whose lives have been so unhappily sacrificed in the disaster of which we have just heard.

Perhaps I may be allowed to add a special word touching the loss which our country has sustained in the passing of Sir Frederick Banting. It was not so long ago that this parliament, in recognition of the distinguished services which he had rendered to science, voted to him an annuity that he might the better devote his life to scientific research.

In his passing our country has lost one of her most distinguished sons, who was proceeding to Britain on a mission of high national and scientific importance.

Doctor Banting was honoured by the universities and learned societies of the world. He was the winner of the Nobel prize, which he generously shared with his associates. His medical discoveries have brought honour to his native land. The name of Sir Frederick Banting will live in the history of medicine as a great benefactor of mankind, who by his discovery of insulin brought new hope to the suffering and the promise of life to many who were doomed to early death before his researches were crowned with success. Great will be the grief that his own life, so full of promise for human welfare, should have come to such an untimely end.

Sir Frederick offered his services to his country as soon as war broke out. He organized a particularly important branch of medical