

Labour Conditions

canned fish, 500,000 cases of British Columbia canned salmon, or 24,000,000 pounds, will be made available to Canadian consumers from this year's pack. This is an increase of 200,000 cases, or sixty-six and two-thirds per cent, over the domestic allocation from the 1945 salmon pack. I may add that in making this increase in domestic allocation we have the concurrence of the international emergency food council, which has taken the place of the combined food board.

The house will recall that during the war years Canada sent nearly all its canned salmon overseas to help meet the critical food needs there. This year, however, it will be possible to take care of a much greater part of the domestic demand. Normal domestic demand runs to something more than half a million cases a year, but this quantity will at least be fairly well up to the usual requirements, and, as I have said, it is a much larger supply than has been available to Canadian consumers in any recent year.

Perhaps I should add a reminder that naturally it will be some months yet before this year's domestic allocation flows to market in volume and reaches the merchants' shelves. While salmon canning is now under way on the Pacific coast, it is in midsummer and on into the autumn that the big production takes place.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STEEL INDUSTRY—PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): May I be permitted to direct a question to the Minister of Labour of which I have given him notice? It arises out of several telegrams which I have received from Nova Scotia expressing great anxiety about the present steel dispute. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the house whether any progress has been made toward reaching a final settlement?

Hon. PAUL MARTIN (Secretary of State): As the house knows, the Minister of Labour is rarely absent from his seat at this time, but he is engaged in an important conference, and he asked me to say to the hon. gentleman that he has no final information on the subject.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—
PENSION RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I sent him [Mr. Bridges.]

notice of this question two days ago, but at his request in view of the other matters that were before him I delayed asking it until to-day. When is the royal commission to be appointed to inquire into the matter of the pension rights of Canadian Pacific Railway employees involved in the 1919 strike, as requested over a year ago by unions representing the men, and as recommended to the government last December by Mr. H. S. Johnstone, conciliation officer of the Department of Labour?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): My hon. friend was good enough to write me a letter about this matter. May I say to him that unfortunately I have not had the opportunity thus far of reading the recent reports on the matter, or the representation of the Canadian Pacific Railway company. I should like the question to stand for my colleague, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell), to answer very shortly.

ARMY SUPPLIES

PRESS REPORT AS TO DISCARDING OF SHOES AND
SLIPPERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, in connection with which I have sent to him a copy of the *Montreal Star* of July 10, the day before yesterday, in which appears a news story accompanied by pictures indicating that thousands of pairs of serviceable army shoes and slippers are lying on the Wellington street dump at Point St. Charles. In view of what appears to be a serious situation I would ask the minister to make an investigation and give the house a report on the matter as soon as possible, if he is not able to do so at the moment.

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): Mr. Speaker, I have read the newspaper account sent across to me, and it seems to absolve both War Assets Corporation and the Department of National Defence. The report indicates that the material was dumped there by a private merchant. I shall make sure no government agency was involved, but beyond that I do not see what action the government can take.

Mr. COLDWELL: Cannot waste of that description be prevented?