

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 11, 1960

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

## STARRED QUESTIONS

## RADIO OPERATORS—ADVERTISING IN U.K.

**Question No. 135—Mr. Pickersgill:**

1. Is the civil service commission advertising in the British isles for radio operators for the Department of Transport?

2. If so, have any steps been taken to provide persons presently residing in Canada with the training required for such jobs?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Acting Secretary of State):** The answer to the first part of the question is yes. The answer to the second part is yes. Nevertheless, such training courses and repeated advertising across Canada have failed to provide the necessary supply of radio operators.

## DROWNING ACCIDENT, SECHELT INLET, B.C.

**Question No. 136—Mr. Regier:**

1. Did the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigate the accident in which six men were drowned in Sechelt inlet, near Gibson, British Columbia, during a storm on April 13 last?

2. If so, what were the results of the investigation?

3. When was the boat in question last inspected by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police previous to the tragedy?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** The answer to part 1 is yes, an investigation was made into the accident and search is continuing for the missing men.

The answer to part 2 is that six men in a boat owned and operated by John Alexander Morrison, 36 years of age, left Morrison's logging camp at 5 p.m. on April 13 to go to Sechelt, British Columbia, some eight miles away. The water was extremely rough with winds of 45 miles per hour gusting to 75 miles per hour. The partly submerged boat was recovered early the following morning. Investigation indicates that the one year old, 15 foot open boat was overloaded and the accident in all probability was a direct result of this factor and the adverse weather conditions.

The answer to part 3 is that the boat was inspected by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on April 4, 1960, and found at that time to be properly equipped.

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## POSTMASTER APPOINTMENTS—VETERANS PREFERENCE

**Question No. 137—Mr. McWilliam:**

Does the government recognize veterans preference in the appointment of postmasters for other than semi-staff and staff post offices?

**Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General):** The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

## R.C.A.F. AIR CREW RETIREMENTS AND DISCHARGES

**Question No. 138—Mr. Winch:**

1. How many trained air crew officers, including those in command or staff appointments, requested retirement from the Royal Canadian Air Force (a) in the fiscal year 1958-59; (b) in 1959-60?

2. What was the approximate cost of training these officers?

3. How many technically-trained enlisted personnel declined to re-enlist (a) in 1958-59; (b) in 1959-60?

4. How many made other arrangements for discharge from the service?

**Mr. Egan Chambers (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence):** The answer to part 1 is (a) 11; (b) 10.

The answer to part 2 is (a) \$816,000; (b) \$736,000.

The answer to part 3 is (a) 584; (b) 662.

The answer to part 4 is in 1958-59, 41; in 1959-60, 59.

## STREET LETTER MAIL BOX SERVICE CONTRACT, CHATHAM, N.B.

**Question No. 139—Mr. McWilliam:**

1. On what date was the first contract awarded to the present contractor for the Chatham and street letter mail boxes service, Chatham, New Brunswick, and for what amount?

2. Was this contract renewed? If so, on what dates and for what periods?

3. Were public tenders called for this service any time after termination date of the first contract? If so, on what dates?

4. Was this tender renewed by negotiations with the contractor? If so, what were the agreed amounts, in each case?

**Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General):** The answers are as follows:

1. October 1, 1950; \$1,080 per annum.

2. No. A new contract was drawn, effective September 8, 1952, deleting service between the Chatham railway station and the Chatham post office. This contract was renewed without tenders in 1956 for a further period of four years expiring June 30, 1960.