

Transcona plant of Dominion Industries. I believe there are over a million gallons there. Would that be sold direct to anybody who would buy what would be called a wholesale amount or would it have to pass through the central office? Probably if you can give us an answer in that case as to the sale it would give one an idea of the policy.—A. In the case of a big bulk of material of that type which may seriously affect employment by stopping production and flooding the market we act in consultation with the manufacturers of that article as to the amount that should be released. Following that consultation we then release in accordance with the best advice we can get either to the manufacturer who will redistribute through his wholesale channels or to his wholesale channels. We would not be in the position of selling two gallons, for instance, to a garage for topping off batteries and things like that.

Q. I mean quantities of say, ten or fifty barrels, something like that.—A. If we sold that coldly without consultation it would probably be quite an impingement on the normal business of the manufacturers and distributors.

Q. In other words that would pass through the central office?—A. Yes. We are trying to set now on all the various articles we handle what we call a national significance figure. That national significance figure will make the local branch refer that amount, if it is over the amount that is shown as of national significance, back to the head office. Then the head office distribution section will take that up and redistribute that across the country for sale at the various points.

Q. That would be in contrast, for instance, to a large machine such as a centrifuge built to order for a certain purpose. There might very well be only one of those and that would be sold to the highest bidder, I presume.—A. Yes. That is a specific type of merchandise and will have no impingement on anything.

*By Mr. Reid:*

Q. May I ask one further question? In the case of organizations like orphanages or hospitals which may desire to acquire 50 or 100 beds and so many chairs would there be any very great difficulty in acquiring them in view of the fact that you may have 5,000 for sale in one lot? How would the disposal of the 5,000 take place? I am just wondering when the time comes for the disposal of these great surpluses in British Columbia what the procedure will be when you have a little organization wanting 100 beds or 50 chairs, a hospital or an orphanage, and you have thousands for disposal? What opportunity will be given those organizations to obtain their requirements? Will your policy be to sell the whole lot to one bidder? We are worried about it. One bunch of merchants might come in and buy the whole lot as was done in north and then re-sell to the people. I think it is important that we should know just what the procedure is going to be before these are sold.—A. No, I think in cases like that as we get this thing completely decentralized the branch offices can handle the local requirements of public bodies or public institutions very simply. We are doing that in a lot of cases now.

Q. Their offer or bid will be given consideration?—A. Exactly. Let us take these beds. Let us say there are 10,000 beds or 5,000 beds at Boundary Bay that you are speaking about. If the national significance figure on those beds is 1,000 then it means that a report of that would come back to Montreal and Montreal would allocate, let me say, to the B.C. district maybe 500 beds for sale in B.C., and 300 somewhere else and 200 somewhere else until the whole lot is allocated.

Q. What we are afraid of is that three or four second-hand dealers or merchants in that business may club together and tender for the whole quantity. Would their bid be given consideration, would it be given priority as against an institution that wanted 100 only or 50, say a hospital or an orphanage? I think