

Supply—Transport

there were 2,745 cars loaded on the prairies and 3,130 cars unloaded at the ports. So between the prairies and the ports they apparently picked up 385 loaded box cars.

Mr. Pickersgill: I have not had the benefit of the higher mathematics of the hon. member for Battle River-Camrose. I think I will have to examine them before I venture on an explanation. It occurs to me that if I wanted to write a thriller it would be called "the disappearing box car". It is perfectly clear that it is not only for wheat we are short of box cars. My hon. friend from Cochrane spoke to me yesterday about the difficulty the lumbermills were having in part of his constituency in getting box cars to move lumber to the markets. The plain fact is we are producing so much wealth in this country and are able to market so much wealth that we just do not have the transportation facilities to carry it all and we had better hurry up and get more. That, I think, is the only real solution to this problem.

I could go on to deal with a number of other questions which were raised. I know my hon. friend from York-Humber would not mind if I do not go into the question of water levels today.

Mr. Beaulieu: May I ask the minister if I can put a question to him before the debate is over? In my constituency of St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville we have an airport. For three or four years people have been asking that the landing strips there should be lengthened. The department has expropriated land there, though no payment has been made in respect of it. I know we are considering last year's estimates but I should like to know whether this money was paid or whether provision is made for it in next year's estimates.

This airport is very close to Montreal. It is closer to Expo than is Dorval airport itself—15 miles closer. If there were longer running lanes at this airfield pressure would be removed from Dorval. We have the need. We have an aircraft industry which employs a great many people. If this work could be started now it would help even more of those in my constituency.

• (9:40 p.m.)

It was formerly a training camp for the air force. The buildings are there. It is close to Expo. It is about 1 to 2 miles from St. Jean, and 12 to 15 miles from Montreal. I want to ask the minister for a clear answer. Is there an amount included in the budget for next

[Mr. Smallwood.]

year to start this work, so that it will be ready in time? I will speak about Expo later, but at the moment it is essential that this matter be not left up in the air.

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. gentleman is a new member, but he, having experience of some considerable magnitude in another assembly is aware—I think he has indicated it himself—that there is no provision in the estimates for 1965-66, which are the ones before the committee. I would be very glad to discuss the matter and give him an answer when we come to my other estimates, and in the meantime I shall give the hon. gentleman an answer privately.

Now, sir, I will deal with these things in the order in which they were raised and I hope hon. members will not mind if, in the case of any subject that is likely to be of continuing interest, I do not deal with it tonight but deal with it on the next instalment of estimates.

In his first speech the hon. member for Lapointe mainly discussed competition between the railways and the trucking industry, a very large subject which should be part of any broad statement of national transportation policy. If it were agreeable I would prefer to deal with it in that context.

The hon. member for Medicine Hat discussed the railway question and I think I have already said all that I ought to say at this moment about that.

Mr. Grégoire: Can the minister tell us when he intends to speak, or to give us the policy of the government on this question of subsidies to the railroads for the transportation of merchandise? When will the minister give this?

Mr. Pickersgill: Actually, of course, the whole question will come up in connection with the railway legislation, and it was provided for in the bill that was introduced last year; but I do not think that the bill will be introduced in the same form this year. We are still giving consideration to this matter, and it would not be proper for me at this moment to report on things which have not finally been decided.

The hon. member for Winnipeg South discussed a matter which at some stage I want to discuss at considerable length in the house, but I do think there is one point that I ought to try to make as clear as I can. It is this, that in respect of the bilateral negotiations the basic principle that was followed, as I understand it—these negotiations began some