

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOTEL—REFERENCE TO STATEMENT BY MEMBER FOR MAISONNEUVE-ROSEMONT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of the speech given by the hon. member for Maison-neuve-Rosemont (Mr. Deschatelets) in Montreal yesterday, in which he called the naming of the new C.N.R. hotel in Montreal an appalling blunder of Mr. Gordon and in which he declared that his views were shared by all the other Liberal members on the island of Montreal?

Mr. Brown (Essex West): Provincial election.

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think my position in this matter is already known, and I shall refrain from any comment on the speech by the hon. member in question.

POLIOMYELITIS

SALK VACCINE—INQUIRY AS TO SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. James A. McBain (Elgin): In the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I wish to direct a question to his parliamentary assistant. Can he advise the house when the Salk vaccine will be available in sufficient quantities for second inoculations and also the approximate date for the booster inoculations?

Mr. F. G. Robertson (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): The Minister of National Health and Welfare has made many announcements on the situation regarding the production of Salk vaccine, and I feel there is nothing more I can add on this occasion to what he has already said.

CUSTOMS TARIFF

SKIM MILK POWDER AND CHEESE—INQUIRY AS TO RECONSIDERATION OF INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Is the government reconsidering at the moment the question of whether or not to raise the tariff on skim milk powder and cheese?

[Mr. Howe (Port Arthur).]

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): The Canadian Federation of Agriculture and a number of other agricultural bodies attended on me yesterday to make representations to that effect, and I will of course give consideration to what they said.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

METHOD OF PROMOTION IN PROTECTIVE SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal): I should like to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs a question. This may not come directly under his department but I think the minister will be particularly interested. My question has reference to promotions in the protective service of the House of Commons. In making promotions in the protective service is preference given in the matter of promotion to veterans with active service in the first and second world wars over members of the protective service who have had no military service? Does the time spent in military service count towards seniority in the protective service?

Hon. Hugues Lapointe (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member pointed out, this matter does not come directly under my department. The members of the protective service of the House of Commons are employees of the House of Commons. I am not positive but my understanding is that although they are employees of the House of Commons they enjoy the same privileges as other civil servants. My understanding of the veterans preference in the civil service is that preference is given to veterans with respect to entering the public service but that so far as promotional competitions within the service are concerned the veterans preference does not apply any more. I believe that is the position with regard to the civil service.

As to the second part of the question, as to whether military service should count in determining seniority in the protective service, I shall have to inquire about this matter. But there again I should like to point out that under the Civil Service Act military service does not count in determining seniority but it can be counted for superannuation purposes, and the date of seniority depends upon the date of entry of the servant into the public service.

GRAIN

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT—CANADA'S SHARE OF WORLD MARKET

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. Earl Rowe (Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in view of the general disappointment which is felt over the recent international wheat agreement, has the Minister of