

reference to the export of petroleum and pulpwood, that no orders or regulations have been issued under the export of petroleum and pulpwood regulations established under chapter 63 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927 since the last return made to parliament.

With reference to the Canada-United Kingdom income tax agreement, no orders or regulations have been issued under chapter 38 of the statutes of 1946.

With reference to the Canada-United Kingdom succession duty agreement, no regulations or orders have been issued under chapter 39 of the statutes of 1946, being the Canada-United Kingdom succession duty agreement section.

With reference to the Canada-United States tax convention, no orders or regulations have been issued under the convention relating to succession duties, enacted as chapter 31 of the statutes of 1944 since these were tabled in the house on March 20, 1946.

(For complete list of reports and papers tabled, see *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 2, December 8, 1947.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

CANADA'S HOLDINGS OF GOLD AND UNITED STATES DOLLARS

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): On Friday last the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) asked me to table a statement showing the month by month holdings of gold in United States dollars as of the end of each month since December 31, 1945. I beg leave to do so now.

EXCISE TAX

STATEMENT RESPECTING CHANGES TO BE EFFECTIVE AS FROM NOVEMBER 17

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): Since it may be a day or two before we reach the emergency measures, I should like to make a brief statement regarding certain excise taxes which I announced on November 17 I would ask parliament to enact. As members will appreciate, this was a very broad and comprehensive programme, and since announcing it I have received many representations from business concerns and consumers affected.

In these discussions with the industries affected constructive suggestions have been put forward, and in cases where these proposals have not been in serious conflict with our over-all objectives they have been adopted. Needless to say, a minister of finance cannot discuss these matters with

[Mr. McCann.]

those who may be affected by them prior to their announcement.

I shall not take the time of the house now to explain in detail the various considerations which in each case led me to modify certain of these taxes. Members will appreciate, however, how important it is to industry to know of any changes in the government's intentions just as soon as possible after decisions have been made, and for that reason I am announcing now the following changes in the excise tax programme which I will ask parliament later to make effective as from November 18.

The tax on electric or gas refrigerators, refrigerating components, oil burners and oil burning equipment generally, will apply only when these items are adapted to household use or for use in apartment houses, places of entertainment, amusement or recreation such as, for example, rinks, halls, clubs and auditoria. At the same time the tax will be extended to cover air-conditioning, cooling or filtering equipment for the same uses. In the case of electric and gas stoves, ranges and heaters, the tax will be withdrawn. Organs for churches will be exempt from the tax on musical instruments. Tooth brushes will not be included in the toilet articles subject to tax. On pleasure boats the tax will apply only to the engines for use in such boats.

LOAN TO UNITED KINGDOM, 1946

INQUIRY AS TO AMOUNTS DRAWN, BY MONTHS, TO DATE

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): With the consent of the house, Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to direct one question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott). A moment ago he answered a question with respect to the official holdings of gold and United States dollars at the end of each month from December 31, 1945. I want to thank the minister for that information. In view of the debate that is now pending will the minister give us an answer to this question at his early convenience? How much has been drawn by Britain to date, by months, on the Canadian loan granted in 1946?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): I should be able to give that information tomorrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS TO BE FIRST ORDER THIS DAY

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I have in my hand the motion which I placed before the house on