

9. Did he suffer an accident while returning from Calgary in February, 1948?

10. If so, what was the cause of his accident and how long was he off duty?

Mr. MacKINNON:

1. There is a D. A. MacDonald employed by the Department of Mines and Resources as a forester.

2. Acting dominion forester.

3. \$6,000 per annum.

4. Graduation in forestry—B.Sc.F.; wide knowledge of forestry and forest conditions throughout Canada.

5. Thirty-four years.

6. Yes.

7. Annual conventions of Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and Canadian Lumbermen's Association.

8. Yes.

9. No.

10. Answered by No. 9.

CANADAIR

NEGOTIATIONS WITH B.O.A.C. FOR PURCHASE OF NORTH STAR AIRCRAFT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. W. SKEY (Trinity): May I address a question to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply? Has the minister any information about a contract between Canadair and the British air line regarding the purchase of a considerable number of North Star aircraft?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): Negotiations have been proceeding for a period of some months between Canadair—which as my hon. friend knows, is a private Canadian company—and British Overseas Airways Corporation. I am told that the negotiations are now approaching finality. The Canadian government has been giving Canadair such help as it could. The Canadian government regards it as very important to Canada that we obtain the contract if at all possible; for it means keeping one of our key aircraft plants in active operation. The Canadian plane has a British power plant, which was put in as a measure of co-operation with the British government, and we believe the aircraft is the equal of any aircraft flying today. We are also of the opinion that there are many compelling reasons why the business should come to Canada. However, the contract has not been completed. That is all I can say at the moment.

Mr. SKEY: It is not true to say that the contract is already lost to a United States company?

TOURIST INDUSTRY

QUESTIONING OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AS TO EXPENDITURES DURING VISITS TO CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. J. McCANN (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, on Monday last the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) asked the following question:

Is it a fact that Canadian officials at the border are instructed to question United States tourists returning to their own country, and to ask them how much money they have spent in Canada and what kind of money it has been? If that is the practice, does the minister consider it wise?

Then further:

Will the minister give definite information later as to whether or not it is the practice?

The questions asked by customs officers at the frontier with respect to the amount of money which the United States tourist has left in Canada have no direct connection with customs, but the action is taken by our customs officers at the request of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Two forms are used to report the replies to statistics, and samples of these forms I will hand to the hon. member. The white form E.49 is used where the tourist has been in Canada less than forty-eight hours and where he has not been given a traveller's vehicle permit. The yellow permit form E.50 carries the request for the information on the reverse side.

The customs officer, on completion of the data, is expected to forward to the bureau of statistics either one form or the other for every United States passenger vehicle leaving Canada. The officers are also cautioned in port instructions that where the operator of the vehicle is reluctant to give the information there shall be no insistence, but in such case the form showing the number of persons in the vehicle and the approximate length of time in Canada must in any event be completed.

The officials of the bureau of statistics place considerable value on these returns, and are of the opinion that if the questions are eliminated they will be at a serious loss in compiling their monthly and annual returns.

The bureau gives me the following information:

"This method of obtaining information on tourist expenditures was inaugurated in 1940. It has worked extremely well. Many thousands of tourists answer the questions. The fact that many thousands do not, indicates the voluntary nature of the inquiry. Fifty per cent answer the question. Without this