

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

**Mr. Fleming:** With respect to the details on page 492, there are two items here concerning which I should like to know why they are both charged in the present fiscal year. There is an item of \$12,000 for participation in the British industries fair, 1952, and an item of \$11,000 for participation in the British industries fair, 1953. How does it happen that these two items for two different years are charged in the present fiscal year?

**Mr. Howe:** The difficulty is the expenses overlap the fiscal years. For example, with respect to the trade fair certain preparatory work has to be done in the preceding fiscal year, and there are certain other expenses that are incurred at the time the fair is actually in progress. The trade fair is typical, and the work of preparing for the 1952 trade fair started the week after the 1951 trade fair was finished. Considerable expenditure for advertising and various other purposes is incurred in the fiscal year previous to the actual date of the fair.

**Mr. Fleming:** Looking at what happened last year, then, I presume we can expect a further item in next year's estimates covering the balance of expenditures for 1953?

**Mr. Howe:** That is right.

**Mr. Quelch:** Can the minister say how many nations had exhibits at the international trade fair last year?

**Mr. Howe:** We have not reached that item yet.

**Mr. Quelch:** I thought we were on it.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Eglinton wanted to ask a question on item 447. After the question had been dealt with I called item 448, which has to do with the Canadian international trade fair.

**Mr. Charlton:** I have a question I would like to ask on item 447.

**The Chairman:** If the hon. member for Brant-Wentworth still wants to address questions under item 447, he may do so.

**Mr. Charlton:** Did I understand the minister to say these "exhibitions generally" have nothing to do with exhibitions in Canada?

**Mr. Howe:** That is right.

**Mr. Charlton:** Then do I understand this whole staff is kept in Canada in connection with exhibits in foreign countries?

**Mr. Howe:** They are not all kept in Canada. Some work out of Canada.

**Mr. Charlton:** They are not in Canada?

**Mr. Howe:** Sometimes some of them are and sometimes they are not.

[Mr. Howe.]

**Mr. Charlton:** I see the amount allotted for travelling expenses is only \$5,000. If their only work is looking after exhibits abroad I would expect the travelling expenses to be greater than that.

**Mr. Howe:** We maintain an office in London and an office in Canada. All the exhibits are built here in Ottawa, where we have a workshop, and shipped to their destination. Then attendants go to the exhibitions. They may go from Canada or from the London office, and they hire local help.

**Mr. Charlton:** But that has nothing to do with the departmental exhibits at the local fall fairs in Canada?

**Mr. Howe:** No.

**Mr. Charlton:** Nothing whatever.

**Mr. Howe:** Oh, occasionally we have loaned the workshop to another department that wishes to build an exhibit, but that expense is charged to the department doing the exhibiting.

**Mr. Charlton:** But is not the director of exhibitions the director in charge of all these small exhibits in Canada too?

**Mr. Howe:** No.

**Mr. Bater:** That is under the Department of Agriculture.

Item agreed to.

448. Canadian international trade fair, 1952, including authority to refund, from revenue, deposits received for contracts for space (revote \$74,500), \$538,380.

**Mr. Bater:** I think my question is in order this time. I notice this is the only item to which any revenue is attached, and I wondered whence that revenue came.

**Mr. Howe:** It comes from the sale of floor space at the fair and from admissions paid by the general public. This is not operated as a fair for the purpose of earning money. It is operated in order that buyers and sellers may get together in a leisurely way and complete transactions. But two or three days a week we admit the general public at certain hours, and the admissions paid by the general public are a source of revenue. The total cost of the 1951 trade fair was \$720,932 and the revenue was \$415,043, leaving a net deficit of \$305,889. I am happy to say the deficit is getting smaller each year, and when conditions get back to normal I hope we can operate the trade fair at no cost to the Canadian government.

**Mr. Quelch:** Could we know the number of exhibitors last year, how many are exhibiting this year, and how the amount of space reserved this year compares with last year?