

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, November 20, 1951

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

RAILWAY LEGISLATION

CHANGE IN PERSONNEL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. W. G. Weir (Portage-Neepawa) moved:

That the name of Mr. McLure be substituted for that of Mr. Browne (St. John's West) on the special committee on railway legislation.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Second annual report on activities under the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1951.—Mr. McCubbin.

CANADIAN FORCES

AUXILIARY SERVICES IN KOREA—TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. R. O. Campney (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, when Bill 21, respecting the Canadian forces, was in committee on Friday last the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) and the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) requested the production of certain correspondence with reference to offers on the part of certain organizations to provide auxiliary services for the troops in Korea and replies thereto. In accordance with that request I now wish to table the correspondence referred to.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AUTHORITY—DEEP WATERWAY BETWEEN MONTREAL AND LAKE ERIE

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient, for the purpose of providing a deep waterway between Montreal and lake Erie, to create a corporation to be called "The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority" with power, *inter alia*, to expropriate; to construct, maintain and operate all necessary works; to borrow amounts not exceeding three hundred million dollars; to establish tariffs of tolls and to employ such officers and employees as may be required for the purposes of the authority.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

WAR DAMAGE

REQUEST FOR INTERIM PAYMENT TO CANADIANS WHO SUFFERED FROM JAPANESE ACTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister, of which I believe he has received notice. This question has been directed to him in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson).

When may some interim payment be expected to relieve the truly desperate plight of some of those Canadians who suffered as a result of Japanese action during the last war? In that respect I would point out that there are large assets available which give assurance of a return to the government, in respect of any such payment which may be made. There are many people who have waited for six years, without any payment having been made. Some of them to my knowledge, and I am sure to the knowledge of the government, are really in a desperate position today.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): It is quite true that some of those who have submitted claims are in a position that would make us very glad if interim payments can be made. Some weeks ago the matter was referred to Mr. Justice Ilsley, the commissioner inquiring into the matter of war claims that have been submitted, and a most interesting and lengthy report was received from him the other day. Copies of this report have been submitted to members of council for their individual consideration, but we have not yet had an opportunity of co-ordinating our views in respect to it.

Mr. Justice Ilsley points out that there are some rather serious risks involved in making interim payments, in that prejudice might be caused to other possible claimants. Some of the cases which are the most sympathetic would appear to be borderline in character. The question arises as to whether the claims of all those having Canadian nationality shall be recognized or whether there shall be