

Inquiries of the Ministry

was very kindly sent to me. As the questions are similar I can answer the two at the same time.

In answer to the hon. member's question I may say that the press dispatches are correct in essence, if not strictly accurate in detail. The department, which in past winters has lent assistance to commercial shipping bound for the lower St. Lawrence and gulf points, hopes to be in a position to provide a greater degree of icebreaker support, in that one and possibly two additional vessels will be available. They will assist shipping to the limit of their capabilities. In the matter of ice aerial reconnaissance, it is expected that the service of past years will be continued, and plans are now under consideration for an extension of the service to provide improved coverage.

Mr. C. A. Cannon (Iles-de-la-Madeleine): May I ask a supplementary question. Would the minister consider extending that work to the Magdalen islands, to keep navigation open?

Mr. Hees: Plans for icebreaking in the lower St. Lawrence are now under consideration, but have not been put in final form as yet.

Mr. Lesage: Are the new icebreakers the minister just mentioned for service in the lower St. Lawrence under construction now, or are they in service?

Mr. Hees: I am not familiar with the exact icebreakers to which the hon. member refers.

Mr. Lesage: The ones the minister mentioned.

Mr. Hees: I believe they are ready to operate at the present time.

[Later:]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet asked me a supplementary question regarding the one or possibly two icebreakers we expect to be using this year in the lower St. Lawrence river. One is the *Montcalm*, which it is expected will operate in the lower St. Lawrence river. The other is the *Labrador*, which is at present in drydock. It is hoped to have it in operation by the end of January at the latest.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—REQUEST FOR
EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF YARD AT
MONCTON, N.B.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Murphy (Westmorland): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of today's announcement [Mr. Hees.]

by Canadian National Railways of the construction of a \$17 million railway yard at Moncton, will the minister urge the management, because of the high labour content of this type of work, that the work be commenced this fall to ease unemployment in the Westmorland county area?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I have not heard of the particular project, but if one is contemplated by the Canadian National Railways I shall urge them to bring it forward as soon as possible.

QUEBEC—WINTER NAVIGATION AS AID
TO UNEMPLOYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I wonder if I could ask a supplementary question, not of the Minister of Transport but of the Minister of Labour, arising out of the second to last question. I noticed that the minister was present at a meeting in Quebec to deal with a solution of the unemployment problem and one suggestion made was that winter navigation would assist in the solution of the unemployment problem in Quebec. May I ask the Minister of Labour whether he or his officials have studied this method of assisting unemployment, and what conclusion has been arrived at?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): I spoke at Quebec to launch the winter employment program which is undertaken by the people of that city through service clubs, the municipality and others who are vitally interested in providing employment during the winter months. I do not recall that I said anything about winter navigation in this regard at all, so consequently I cannot answer the question.

Mr. Chevrier: If I may ask a supplementary question, I did not suggest the minister had said anything. What I suggested was that, at the meeting he attended, the suggestion was made that unemployment could be solved in the Quebec area by winter navigation. My question was whether he or his officials had given consideration to that problem.

Mr. Starr: The meeting I attended was a luncheon meeting, and I was the only speaker. No one made any suggestions about navigation. I might say our department has not given the problem consideration.

Mr. Chevrier: I will send the minister a copy of the report.

[Later:]

Mr. Starr: The hon. member for Laurier was good enough to send me the press clipping to which he referred earlier this afternoon, in which it is stated that Dean J. M.