

Inquiries of the Ministry

Attlee informed the other commonwealth prime ministers that the United Kingdom government was considering a proposal to change the name "Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs" to "Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations", and "Dominions Office" to "Commonwealth Relations Office".

When the hon. member's notice was placed on the order paper we communicated with London to find out if they had any objection to the tabling of these telegrams, and they answered that, while in these particular telegrams there was nothing that would infringe security, for the sake of precedent they would prefer that they be not tabled, and that only the purport thereof be communicated.

I shall be glad to show the hon. member the answer we received to the request that they be published. They also said that as they had transmitted these telegrams to us and to other governments they would not feel at liberty to authorize the publication of the telegrams without first communicating with the other governments, and that on the whole, because the communication had been secret and in cipher, they hoped there would be no insistence upon the publishing of the actual text.

In the United Kingdom House of Commons on July 2, 1947, Mr. Attlee stated:

It has for some time past been clear that in certain quarters both here and overseas the view has been taken that the titles of the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and the Dominions office are no longer entirely appropriate and are liable to convey a misleading impression of the relations between the United Kingdom and the other members of the commonwealth. His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom have accordingly reached the conclusion that it is desirable that these titles should now be changed, and steps are accordingly being taken for the issue of an order in council under the Ministers (Transfer of Functions) Act to alter the titles to Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and Commonwealth Relations office respectively.

In reply to a question in the House of Lords on July 1, 1947, when the intention to change the name was announced, Lord Addison stated that the United Kingdom Prime Minister had been personally in touch with the prime ministers of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa on the matter, and that it was clear that they welcomed the change.

Mr. King made a similar statement in this house at that time. There has been no other correspondence but that, and the motion could either stand or if the hon. member wishes to have it dropped I shall be glad to show him confidentially the communications received from London in answer to our inquiry whether there was any objection to tabling the actual correspondence.

Mr. Fulton: The Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) said, if I understood him correctly, that the United Kingdom government indicated they did not wish the text of the telegrams revealed but they had no objection to indicating the purport of the contents. I take it the purport is similar to the announcement made in the United Kingdom parliament to which the Prime Minister has referred. If that understanding is correct, then I believe the motion is answered or it can be dropped.

Mr. St. Laurent: The telegrams were entirely in accord with the statement made in House of Commons at Westminster, and the corresponding statement made by Mr. King in this house at that time.

Mr. Speaker: Motion dropped.

STEEL**QUESTION AS TO INCREASE IN BASIC PRODUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Clarence Gillis (Cape Breton South): Has the Minister of Defence Production noticed that the dominion bureau of statistics' daily bulletin No. 258 of November 20, 1951, indicates there has been no substantial increase in the past nine months in the production of basic steel? Can the minister make a statement concerning the reasons behind that, either now or at some convenient time?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production): While it is true, Mr. Speaker, there has been no increase in basic steel since a new blast furnace came into production about four months ago, a considerable expansion of basic steel capacity is under construction. The Steel Company of Canada, Limited, will have about doubled its production of basic steel by the end of 1952 or early 1953. It takes about two years to complete a large blast furnace under today's conditions. There are other minor increases in basic capacity, but the one I have mentioned is the largest now contemplated. The net result of current new construction will be an addition of about 33 per cent to the basic steel production of Canada.

DAIRY PRODUCTS**QUOTA BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT—QUESTION AS TO ACTION BY CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. Earl Catherwood (Haldimand): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the quota imposed by the United States government against such agricultural products as cheese, processed milk and so forth still in effect? If so, has the government made recent representations protesting this action?