4. The Dominion of Canada has always paid the full face amount of the principal of and interest on every direct obligation issued by it, all promptly when due in the lawful currency of the country where payable at the time of payment thereof.

In the budget speech delivered in the House of Commons on February 25, 1937, the Minister of Finance, in referring to an issue of perpetual bonds, stated "it was intended as the initial step in a program which is designed to provide for the consolidation and simplification of our public debt structure. Another purpose which we had in mind was to facilitate the setting up as soon as the condition of our national finances make it practicable, of a general sinking fund to provide for the gradual amortization of our long term debt on scientific lines."

During the war period and for some years before the dominion government has been operating at a deficit and it has not been possible to provide for the paying off of indebtedness out of revenue. However, the government plans in this respect will be made known at the appropriate time.

5. Yes.

YALTA CONFERENCE

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie):

1. Has the government been informed of the secret agreements reached at the Yalta conference?

2. If so, on what date?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:

1. Certain information regarding agreements reached between the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the U.S.S.R. at the Yalta conference has been received by the Canadian government.

2. The information was received some time after the conference had concluded its sittings.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie):

What amount was paid to the unemployed by the unemployment insurance commission during each of the following months: September, October, November, December, 1945; January, February, 1946?

Mr. MITCHELL:

1945	Amount
September	$ 881,729 39
October	1,708,343 06
November	2,508,609 71
December	3,449,783 41
1946	
January	4,492,081 25
February	5,900,722 63

[Mr. Mayhew.]

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

HUDSON BAY ROUTE

Mr. MOORE:

What steps have been taken by the government to make use of Fort Churchill and Hudson Bay route in the shipping season of 1946?

Mr. McCANN: Return tabled.

SOLWAY AND SONS—STORAGE BATTERIES

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North):

1. Were storage batteries sold by any department of the government to Solway and Sons, Toronto?

2. At what prices were they sold to this firm?

3. What was the cost of these batteries to the government?

4. How many storage batteries were sold to Solway and Sons?

5. Were batteries sold to the above company damaged in any way?

6. If so, what was the nature of the damage?

7. How many of these batteries had been used before the sale?

8. Have any batteries been declared surplus by any department of government?

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—VETERANS

Mr. McKAY:

1. How many veterans were in receipt of unemployment insurance during (a) December, 1945; (b) January, 1946; (c) February, 1946?

2. How many veterans were in receipt of out-of-work benefits during (a) December, 1945; (b) January, 1946; (c) February, 1946?

Mr. McCANN: Return tabled.

CANADIAN TROOPS IN INDIA

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie):

1. Are there members of the Canadian Army serving in India at present?

2. If so, how many?

3. What is their assignment?

CANADIAN TROOPS OUTSIDE OF CANADA

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie):

1. What was the total strength of Canadian troops belonging to the various army services, which were outside of Canada on March 14, 1946?

2. Where are such troops stationed?

3. How many in each place?

VETERANS LAND ACT—FRASER VALLEY

Mr. CRUICKSHANK:

1. How many applications have been received under the Veterans Land Act for (a) the purchase of farms; (b) small holdings, in the municipalities of Matsqui, Mission, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and unorganized territory in the Fraser Valley?

2. How many have been sold (a) farms; (b) small holdings?