

Alaska Highway

I should tell them that we unanimously and heartily endorse the congratulations, thanks and good wishes expressed in the farewell address which we have just heard.

There is no need for me to repeat them nor to attempt any amplification, but I wish to say to Their Excellencies that the last but one paragraph of yesterday's speech from the throne moved us very deeply. The words referred to are the following:

Princess Alice and I will ever recall that in these momentous years it has been our proud privilege to share in your anxieties and rejoicings. Throughout our lives we shall cherish an abiding affection for Canada and her people.

Their Excellencies know that the motto of my province is "Je me souviens". We too will forever treasure the imperishable memory of these two impressive figures who upheld with such personal dignity and éclat our inalienable loyalty to the monarchical government which is at the same time democratically constitutional. During the dreadful war years, this loyalty was a constant inspiration to our people, and the presence of Their Excellencies among us, as well as their continuous participation in all our efforts have forged bonds of admiration and affection, and we are proud to register the fact in the records of parliament.

Motion agreed to. (The members standing.)

ALASKA HIGHWAY

QUESTION AS TO OPENING FOR PUBLIC USE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Cariboo): I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Abbott) a question. I notice that the hon. gentleman is not in his seat, but perhaps the question can be brought to his attention and he can answer on Monday. Is the Alaska highway to be opened soon to the public?

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): The matter is one that comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of National Defence. I shall be glad to bring it to his attention, but I should think the highway would not be closed to the public.

FOOD

FACTORS OPERATING AGAINST FULL PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. CASTLEDEN (Yorkton): I wish to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question, of which I have given him notice. In view of the critical food situation through-

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

out the world, will the minister please inform the house what steps have been taken to remove those factors in Canada's food production which have worked against the use of the country's full productive capacity?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I am sorry I did not receive the notice. I know of no such interruptions to the production of food.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: You will hear of them.

SUGAR

ALLOWANCE TO BEE-KEEPERS FOR HONEY PRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Finance or of the hon. member representing him in the house. In view of the sugar situation obtaining in western Canada, will the Minister of Finance not consider advising the sugar administrator to increase immediately the allowance of sugar to Canadian bee-keepers sufficiently to stimulate honey production in 1946? I should like to have the question answered on Monday.

Mr. R. W. MAYHEW (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): I will see that the question is brought to the minister's attention.

POSTAL SERVICE

RATES ON FOOD PARCELS OVERSEAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. WILLIAM BRYCE (Selkirk): Will the Postmaster General consider the advisability of establishing a temporary reduction in the rate of postage on food parcels to Britain and the devastated countries?

Hon. ERNEST BERTRAND (Postmaster General): These rates are determined by agreement between the British postal authorities and ourselves, and they could not be reduced without first having a conference.

Mr. BRYCE: Will the Postmaster General be prepared to do it?

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. FERNAND VIAU AND SECONDED BY MR. R. H. WINTERS

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. FERNAND VIAU (St. Boniface) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour for me to have been chosen to