

## Questions

of them are not. My hon. friend built up a very elaborate, picturesque and imaginary argument upon that hypothesis, which was wholly wrong and I merely wish to make this correction.

Item agreed to.

Inspection of subsidized steamship services, \$4,500.

Mr. GARDINER: What is the reason for the increase of \$500? A similar question was asked in regard to the increase of \$6,000 on item 212, but the minister did not give an answer. Perhaps he will now furnish us this information on both items.

Mr. ROBB: The service between Sydney and Whycomagh—item 212—was temporarily suspended owing to the old boat having foundered during the year, and we had to give an additional subsidy for a new steamer. The increase in item 214 is for the inspector of the steamship services.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King, the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 25, 1923

The House met at three o'clock.

#### VACANCY—NICOLET

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received notice that a vacancy has occurred in the representation in the House of Commons of the electoral district of Nicolet in the province of Quebec, the sitting member thereof, Arthur Trahan, Esquire, having accepted an office of emolument under the Crown. I have accordingly issued my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer to make out a new writ for the election of a member to the said electoral district.

#### QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

#### FOREST DESTRUCTION BY FUNGI AND INSECTS

Mr. LADNER:

1. Has the government any information relative to the amount of damage which is being caused in the forests of Canada and the industries related thereto; (a) by fungi; (b) by insects?

2. Does such information relate to the forests under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government and separately to the forests under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments?

[Mr. Stevens.]

3. If so, what is the nature of the information whether in reports or otherwise and does such information disclose damages in percentage of trees destroyed or the value of the same?

4. What steps, if any, are being taken to ascertain the extent of the losses due; (a) to fungi; (b) to insects?

5. Has the government any men on the scientific staff or in the departments engaged in the study of the causes and control of damage caused by fungi and insects generally and if so, how many?

6. How many men are engaged in the study of the causes and control of damage caused to forest trees; (a) by fungi; (b) by insects?

7. Does the government consider such a staff sufficient to cope with the loss to such a great natural resource as the forests of Canada?

8. Is it the intention of the government to extend the scientific study of the causes and control of damage and to take practical remedies for the preservation of the forests of Canada?

Hon. Mr. MOTHERWELL:

1. (a) and (b). The government has a considerable amount of information with regard to insect injuries and fungi from many parts of the Canadian forest. This information has been collected by the division of Forest Insects of the Entomological branch and by the division of Botany of the experimental farms of the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Dominion Forestry branch of the Department of the Interior and the various provincial forest administrations.

2. This information relates to all Canadian forests wherever insects and fungous outbreaks develop and are studied.

3. Information on injury caused by forest insects has been published in several bulletins and circulars by the Entomological branch of the Department of Agriculture and further information will be found in the annual reports of the Dominion Entomologist.

Information on fungous injuries will be found in the reports of the Dominion Botanist for the years 1921 and 1922. Further detailed information concerning both these subjects is available in the files of the Department of Agriculture.

Records are kept of important forest insect and fungous outbreaks and detailed reports upon the injuries are prepared in all cases studied by our officers. These reports give the cause and course of the injury with its details and where possible the extent of the injury is determined, although accurate estimates of this kind are sometimes very difficult to obtain.

4. (a) The division of Botany of the Experimental Farms branch conduct field examinations of forest areas with a view to ascertaining the damage due to fungi and the most feasible means of control. Extensive surveys have been conducted in connection with the white pine blister rust in British Columbia and eastern Canada.