

**Monday, February 8, 1943**

The house met at three o'clock.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I think it was understood that questions and motions for papers would be taken up before proceeding to-day with the debate on the address. If the house is agreeable to that, I need not put a motion.

**QUESTIONS**

(Questions answered orally indicated by an asterisk.)

**OTTAWA SNOW CLEARANCE—USE OF SOLDIERS**

Mr. COLDWELL:

1. By whose authority were soldiers in the Canadian army ordered to assist the Ottawa Electric Railway Company, Limited, in snow clearance, on or about December 31, 1942?

2. How many soldiers were allotted to the task?

3. What amount, if any, was paid by this private company to the Department of National Defence for the services thus rendered?

4. Was this amount, if any, arrived at on an hourly rate? If so, what was the rate?

5. Did the soldiers receive additional remuneration?

Mr. POWER:

1. The Adjutant-General.

2. 307.

3. None.

4. See answer to Question 3.

5. No.

**\*RADIO BROADCASTING—DOCTOR WATSON THOMSON**

Mr. CHURCH:

1. Is Watson Thomson engaged in radio work for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

2. If so, what are his fees, allowances and other emoluments, who recommended his appointment and for what purpose?

3. Has the attention of the government been called to some of his utterances reflecting on the mother country and were his addresses submitted to the government before delivery?

4. Is this man still in the employ of the corporation?

5. If so, in what capacity?

6. Is he a returned soldier and has he any military record?

Mr. LaFLECHE: I consulted with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in respect to question No. 7 and was given the following information and they stated they had no objection to its being brought down. The answers are as follows:

1. Mr. Watson Thomson gives occasional broadcasts on invitation by the supervisor of talks of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

2. The regular fee paid for such broadcasts, i.e. \$25 per occasion; he was first engaged by Mr. Donald Buchanan in June, 1939, and later by Mr. Hugh Morrison, who succeeded Mr. Buchanan; he is one of a panel of three engaged to talk alternately on the series "Week-End Review".

3. No.

4. He gave his final talk in the present series on February 7, 1943.

5. See answer to No. 2.

6. The information obtained from Mr. Thomson shows that he was a signaller attached to the Royal Field Artillery between March, 1917, and October, 1919, and saw active service in France between April, 1918, and the armistice.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I ask the minister if in his answer to question No. 4 he means that Doctor Thomson has given the last of his talks in the series but that there will be another series, or is he now out of the employ of the corporation?

Mr. LaFLECHE: I can answer that, Mr. Speaker. He was engaged for a series, one of a panel of three gentlemen who did speak. He has given his final talk on that series and there is no other engagement standing at the present.

Mr. COLDWELL: May I just ask the minister a question on one remark that he made. He said that the corporation had no objection to this information being brought down. What was the significance of that remark, if any?

Mr. LaFLECHE: I was stating a fact.

Mr. COLDWELL: I rise to a point of order. I think there is an important principle involved in that particular reply, as to whether it is merely at the discretion of the corporation that the question is answered. That is the point.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 7 must be considered as having been answered and no discussion can take place thereon.

**MINISTERS PLENIPOTENTIARY AND ENVOYS  
EXTRAORDINARY**

Mr. CHURCH:

1. How many ministers plenipotentiary and envoys extraordinary have been appointed since the house adjourned on August 1, 1942, to where and at what cost to Canada?

2. Where are they located?

3. Who compose their staff and what are their respective salaries, travelling expenses, living allowances and all other emoluments?

4. What previous experience had they before their present appointment as diplomats?