

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 2, 1950

The house met at eleven o'clock.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

NATIONAL DEFENCE—SECOND REPORT

Second report of special committee on Bill No. 133, respecting national defence.—Mr. Campney.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT—CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT

Mr. Sarto Fournier (Maisonneuve-Rosemont) presented the first report of the special committee on the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

RADIO BROADCASTING—CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT

Mr. Ralph Maybank (Winnipeg South Centre) presented the first report of the special committee on radio broadcasting, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

UNITED NATIONS

UNESCO—AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION OF VISUAL AND AUDITORY MATERIALS

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I should like to lay on the table three copies, in English and in French, of an agreement for facilitating the international circulation of visual and auditory materials of an educational, scientific and cultural character, signed by Canada on December 17, 1949.

Mr. Graydon: Is there any simple explanation of it?

ELECTRICITY INSPECTION ACT

AMENDMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SEALING OF METERS, FEES, ETC.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved the first reading of Bill No. 263 (from the Senate) to amend the Electricity Inspection Act, 1928.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GAS INSPECTION ACT

AMENDMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SEALING OF METERS AND INSPECTION FEES

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved the first reading of Bill No. 264 (from the Senate) to amend the Gas Inspection Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

NEWFOUNDLAND HOTEL, ST. JOHN'S—WAGES OF EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport, of which I have sent him a copy. Has any consideration been given to placing the employees of the Newfoundland hotel, at St. John's, Newfoundland, on the same rates of wages as those paid in other Canadian National Railway hotels, and if so, when will the new rates come into effect? Will they be retroactive to October 1, 1949?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member sent notice of his question, I am afraid I did not receive it, although I was in my office all morning. The question involves a legal point which has been given consideration both by officers of the Canadian National Railways and by officials of the Department of Justice, I believe—although I am not too sure of the latter. I shall have to look into the question to ascertain the present position, and give a reply later.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Dion in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

524. Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada—administration, maintenance and operation, \$624,800.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Chairman, it is some months since there has been an opportunity in the House of Commons to have a full-dress debate on the subject of freight rates. The last time such a debate took place was on the occasion of a decision by the board of transport commissioners to increase freight rates by 21 per cent. Since that time of course there has been