

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:

1. The French government is represented in Canada by a minister, Mr. Ristelhueber.
2. His office is in the French Legation on Sussex street in Ottawa. The members of his staff are Mr. de Lageneste, First Secretary, Mr. Treuil, Commercial Attache and Mr. du Boisberranger, Secretary. The French Legation is subject to the same regime and obligations as legations of other countries in Canada.
3. No.
4. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has expressed the view that it was desirable to continue the existing arrangements with regard to diplomatic representation as between France and Canada.
5. Yes.
6. It is not in the public interest to answer this question.

REPRESENTATION OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN EIRE

Mr. CHURCH:

1. Does the government maintain an envoy or minister in Eire?
2. If so, who is he, who are the members of his staff and what are their respective salaries and other allowances?
3. What is the annual cost to Canada?
4. Do Australia and New Zealand maintain similar offices in Eire, and where are they located?
5. Has Canada trade commissioners in Dublin?
6. If so, are these envoys not duplications of services rendered by trade agents?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:

1. There is a Canadian High Commissioner accredited to Ireland.
2. Mr. John Doherty Kearney, high commissioner, salary, \$7,500, allowance, \$8,000; Mr. E. J. Garland, secretary, salary, \$3,540, allowance, \$2,000; Miss E. O'Malley, stenographer grade 3, salary, \$1,620, allowance, \$250; Mr. B. Chambers, clerk messenger, salary, \$465.
3. 1940-41—\$30,281.49.
4. Australia and New Zealand do not maintain similar offices in Ireland.
5. There is a Canadian trade commissioner in Dublin.
6. There is no duplication of services.

CLERK ASSISTANT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to lay before the house a copy of order in council, P.C. 454, dated January 21, 1942, concerning the superannuation of Mr. T. M. Fraser, Assistant Clerk of the House.

I have assigned Mr. C. W. Boyce, Chief of English Journals, to act as Assistant Clerk of the House pending a permanent appointment to be made by the governor in council.

ACTING DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have assigned J. Laundry to be acting Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms during the present session.

THE WAR

CANADIAN REGIMENTS AT HONG KONG

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if the routine business of this afternoon has now been completed I desire the indulgence of the house while I make a brief statement, somewhat in the nature of a matter of privilege. After careful perusal and intensive study of the statement made yesterday by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) regarding the Hong Kong expedition, I have now come to the conclusion that a very serious situation is revealed and one with which I feel bound to deal. When I made my statement yesterday I was not dealing specifically with the question of man-power.

I do not believe that anyone who reviews the minister's statement will find in it a satisfactory answer to the questions which have been asked by the public about Hong Kong in particular, and the man-power situation in Canada generally. A thorough study of the minister's statement has revealed to me certain facts which, as a non-military man, I did not fully appreciate at the time that very technical and, may I add, subtle statement was made. Having since reviewed it carefully, I am impelled to make a further statement, and I crave the indulgence of this house while I do so.

In my opinion the country is entitled to further information and I propose to indicate the method by which I believe that information should be made available. The fact that from 138 to 148 men with less than minimum training were sent to Hong Kong definitely and inescapably establishes the serious lack of trained man-power in Canada. It must be assumed that if trained man-power was available, they would have been sent. One cannot easily believe that the Minister of National Defence, or the military officials, took untrained men if trained men were available.

This fact raises squarely the question of the state of reserves of trained man-power which we have in Canada. The matter is one of such vital importance that I do not believe it can be properly settled without an open and immediate investigation by a committee of this house. How can we as members of parliament, and how can the people of this country pass upon the question of compulsory service and kindred subjects until we and they have full,