

Supply—Transport

Mr. Chevrier: The last discussion I had with the chairman was to the effect that he expected the completion of the arguments by the provinces to be effected fairly soon, and that after that the commission would have to give consideration to the tremendous volume of evidence. I am hopeful that it will be possible to have a report in 1950. I would not want to be committed to that. I would think that it would be sometime in 1951. I am speaking from the impression I received. I do not want my hon. friend to come later and say that the minister quoted such and such a date. My impression is that it is not likely to be much before 1951.

Mr. Green: It is perfectly clear, in any event, the report will not be in early enough for there to be any legislation introduced at this session.

Mr. Chevrier: I would say not.

Mr. McLure: May I clear up a slight misunderstanding. At no time was I complaining about the Minister of Transport, so far as the supply of reefer cars was concerned. At all times I was endeavouring to give him information, and I accepted what he said as his understanding of what was correct, having in mind the source from which he was getting his information. I do say however that I knew it was not correct because the source from which I gained my information indicated clearly that there was a shortage of reefer cars.

Never at any time however did I complain, nor do I now, about the Minister of Transport. It was not his fault that the shortage existed. I shall not take further time to discuss the matter although, if time permitted, I would place on record some telegrams I received today.

Mr. Chevrier: I thank the hon. member for his remarks.

Item agreed to.

Marine service—

616. Administration of pilotage, including authority for temporary recoverable advances; contributions and the operation and maintenance, as required, of necessary pilot vessels in certain pilotage districts—further amount required, \$5,000.

Mr. Isnor: When will the minister be in a position to make a report concerning the collision off Halifax harbour? I use the word "off" instead of "in", because it would be difficult for anyone to understand how a collision of that type could take place in Halifax harbour. The minister will recall that in that collision eleven fishermen lost their lives. He has already ordered an investigation and, if not today, I trust that in the near future he may be able to make a report.

[Mr. Green.]

Would he be good enough to have his marine officials look into the matter of setting up proper paths for incoming and outgoing shipping, such paths to be properly marked by buoys. I do not know whether this suggestion is feasible, but it has been placed before me in a letter.

Mr. Chevrier: I shall be glad to ask my officers to look into that suggestion. Also, when I have the report following the investigation—and I do not have it today—I shall be glad to give it to him.

Mr. Isnor: Thank you.

Item agreed to.

Marine service—

617. Miscellaneous services relating to navigation and shipping—further amount required, \$16,914.

Mr. Green: The minister will recall that late in the last session there was considerable discussion concerning the need of amending the shipping law and shipping regulations which became apparent from the *Noronic* disaster. I understand the department has drawn up new regulations which have been submitted to different parties across the country for their suggestions. Is it the intention of the minister to give the House of Commons, or any committee of the house, an opportunity to look over those regulations before they become law?

I understand there have been some substantial changes, and I suggest the regulations should be placed before a committee of the house, perhaps the committee on marine and fisheries. What is the plan in this connection?

On November 25, 1948, I asked him about the wreck of the steamship *Chelohsin*, off Stanley park, in Vancouver. At that time he said he was having an investigation made, and promised he would advise me of the results of that investigation. Has the report been made available? If so, would the minister table it?

Mr. Chevrier: I shall have to ask my officers where the matter stands. My recollection is that a report did come to my attention. I shall be glad to see that the hon. member gets it.

Then, as to the regulations arising out of the *Noronic* disaster: May I say there will be full opportunity for discussion of those regulations. When that will be I do not know. First of all, I made the statement, as the hon. member will recall, that the recommendations of the Kellock commission would be carried out.

Mr. Green: The new regulations?