

Questions

Mr. HOWE:

1, 2 and 3. Directors—Mr. Thomas Arnold, Montreal, president; Mr. Emile Corbeil, Montreal; Lt.-Col. R. S. W. Fordham, Ottawa. Officer—Mr. R. W. Clark, Montreal, secretary-treasurer. The president and directors receive no remuneration. The secretary-treasurer receives \$4,200 per annum and is the only full-time officer.

4 and 5. In February, 1942, there were 26 technical employees, all refugees. In March 1943, there were 100 technical employees. Ninety of these are refugees and the remaining ten are Canadian.

6. Yes.

7. Yes.

8. Yes.

9. Hutments have been erected by the government with facilities for housing all refugees employed.

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED—TORONTO MUNITIONS WORKERS AND SOLDIERS' FAMILIES

Mr. CHURCH:

1. Will any houses be built in Toronto by Wartime Housing Limited for wartime munitions workers and soldiers' families?

2. If so, where, and on what terms or conditions?

3. What is being done by the government to aid housing situation in Toronto and provide houses for returned soldiers after the war?

Mr. HOWE: Since the minister's statements on housing conditions in the city of Toronto of March 17 and March 25, *Hansard* pages 1325 and 1544, respectively, no changes have occurred in housing conditions in that city within the knowledge of the department that would warrant any change in policy. The minister's statements are as follows: Page 1325, *Hansard*, March 17, 1943, "Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Munitions and Supply): The housing situation in Toronto has been under study more or less continuously for some months by the Department of Munitions and Supply and by the real estate administrator of the wartime prices and trade board. Until quite recently there was a difference of opinion within the government of the city of Toronto as to whether housing was needed, but within the last two or three weeks a unanimous request has come from the city government for housing. Since then new surveys have been made by both Wartime Housing and the real estate administrator and it has been found that the situation in Toronto is not so acute as to bring it within the purview of Wartime Housing Limited. The decision is that the situation in Toronto is not sufficiently grave to warrant action with respect to housing at this time." Page 1544, *Hansard*, March 25,

[Mr. Cote.]

1943: "Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Munitions and Supply): I think the matter is wholly one for the city of Toronto. I cannot see how it affects matters of supply."

*USE OF EIRE NAVAL BASES

Mr. CHURCH:

1. Has the government, since the house closed last August, taken any steps with other allies to secure the use of the Eire bases which belong to the empire, for immediate use so as to help in the battle of the Atlantic?

2. What action, if any, has been taken by the government in this matter since August last?

3. Has there been any consultation with the government of the United States or Great Britain, or other allies, on this subject since the above date?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hope the hon. member will not think that I am taking too strong exception if I say that I feel that this question should not have been permitted to appear on the order paper. It is certainly a question to which a reply could not be given at this time.

*CANADIAN FORCES—PAY AND ALLOWANCES

Mr. CHURCH:

1. Has any consideration been given yet to the matter raised re inequalities in pay, subsistence and all other allowances of officers and men in His Majesty's forces since the blueprint of rates paid was tabled last session?

2. Will immediate action be taken to bring about some changes in these inequalities set out in the pay of all ranks?

Mr. RALSTON: I can answer this question to the effect that consideration has been given to the matter of subsistence and allowances of officers and men, and certain changes have been made, which have been announced in the press. With regard to future action, that will be announced when any new policy is decided upon.

*LIABILITY OF AUTOMOBILE OWNER CARRYING MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AS PASSENGERS

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's):

Has the Department of Justice given any opinion as to the liability of an automobile owner in case of an accident to a member of the armed forces while being driven as a passenger?

Mr. RALSTON: The answer is in the affirmative.

DEFENCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED—TRANSCONA CORDITE PLANT

Mr. KNOWLES:

Has an order been issued for the lay-off in May, 1943, of five hundred men, more or less, from the Transcona cordite plant of Defence Industries, Limited?