

the light of the resolution he intends to proceed with this bill at this session; or, if he does proceed with the bill, will he allow sufficient time before it becomes operative so that the industry may adjust itself to the changes recommended? I understand it was the consensus at that meeting that the changes were desirable but that they should not become operative immediately. What is the position?

Hon. J. E. MICHAUD (Minister of Fisheries): The matter to which the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) has referred was brought to my attention yesterday by the officers of the maritime section of the canned fish branch of the Canadian Manufacturers association.

I believe the views that have been expressed have resulted from a misunderstanding of the situation. The inspection and grading of canned lobster was unanimously approved at a meeting of the packers, fishermen and dealers on November 6 last, held at Moncton. After that meeting some of the officers representing the interested parties, together with officers of the department, proceeded to prepare legislation to amend the Meat and Canned Foods Act in order to give optional powers to the minister to enforce inspection and grading, subject to regulations which were to be approved by the parties. The confusion arose when the proposed amendments to the act and some of the proposed regulations to be made thereunder at a later time were forwarded to these people for their consideration. They thought all were to be approved immediately by act of parliament, and made compulsory. This matter has been explained to them, and they have been informed that they will have ample time to consider all the regulations which may be made under the proposed enactment. They have agreed to that.

WAR MUNITIONS AND MATERIALS

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE USE OF PLATE MILL AT SYDNEY, N.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe), a copy of which I sent him this forenoon.

An hon. MEMBER: He is out.

Mr. GILLIS: Then I shall direct the question to the government. It arises out of a telegram I received this morning from lodge 1064 of the steel workers union, Sydney, Nova Scotia. Is it the intention of the government

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

to make use of the plate mill located at Sydney, Nova Scotia, and if so, what progress is being made with respect to putting it into shape for operation? This mill was created during the last war under circumstances similar to those through which war industries are being created to-day.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend has observed, the minister is not in the house at the moment. I suggest that the question stand as a notice.

SUPPLY

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

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

87. Departmental administration, \$154,440.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Chairman, under this vote I assume it will be in order to discuss matters relating to the penitentiaries.

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): I believe a discussion of penitentiaries would be more properly debatable under item 96 of the estimates.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I could discuss the matter of the policy of the department under this item. Hon. members who sat in parliament between 1930 and 1935, and more especially those who sat between 1935 and 1940, will recall that largely as a result of the agitation—I was almost going to say misplaced activities—of the former hon. member for Grey-Bruce, and as a result of the newspaper agitation of the *Toronto Globe* as constituted in earlier days, five years ago to-day this government set up another royal commission to investigate our whole penal system.

The commission consisted of Mr. Justice Joseph Archambault, of the superior court of the province of Quebec, a distinguished former member of this house, one whom it was always a pleasure to know and to meet, and who had had a wide experience at the bar in criminal practice; Mr. R. W. Craig, K.C. of Winnipeg, at one time I believe attorney general for Manitoba, and Mr. Harry W. Anderson, a distinguished member of the press gallery, in his lifetime a noted publicist in Canada, one who had taken a keen personal interest in the matter and had been to a great extent if not wholly responsible for the attitude of the *Globe* at that time. Unfortunately Mr. Anderson passed away, and his place was taken by Mr. McRuer, an experienced lawyer