

Inquiries of the Ministry

budget before the end of the present calendar year in order to reduce taxation to a reasonable level?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): The answer is very simple. The government has no such intention.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

HOTEL MANAGEMENT—DEMOTION OF
ROBERT PITT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has he received any complaints with regard to the demotion of Robert Pitt, manager of the Canadian National's Fort Garry hotel in Winnipeg? Has he asked for any investigation? Have the causes of the demotion been investigated by him in any way?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): I have received no complaints. Having made that answer, I presume it disposes of the other two questions; but if my hon. friend presses the matter I can inquire from the officers of the Canadian National Railways—and I will—to ascertain what the position is.

PROVISION OF REFRIGERATOR CARS FOR PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND POTATOES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Will the minister provide sufficient reefer cars for the farmers of Prince Edward Island to transport their bumper crop of potatoes to a good market with bumper prices? We are short of reefer cars.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): I think that question deserves an answer and I have come prepared to make one. Perhaps the house will bear with me while I make it. The potato crop of Prince Edward Island this year, I understand, is the best in volume for some time and the prices offered for potatoes are extremely attractive to the growers. I am very glad indeed that Prince Edward Island is in a position to benefit from these favourable circumstances.

Naturally the heavy concentrated movement of traffic from the island to the mainland creates a problem for the transportation facilities available. Canadian National Railways is faced with a very heavy requirement

[Mr. Hees.]

of refrigerator cars to handle this potato crop and, naturally, it is practically impossible for the railway management to meet all the requirements at the same time.

In co-operation with the management of Canadian National Railways it has been possible thus far to divert at least 50 refrigerator cars from Montreal to the maritime provinces every day to take care of this movement. The latest figures which I have before me indicate that, since September 1 of this year, nearly 1,500 cars of potatoes have been shipped from Prince Edward Island as against 386 in 1951. This by itself is quite an accomplishment and I feel confident that the Canadian National Railways will be able to take care of all the requirements of the potato growers during the next few months.

It must be realized, of course, that refrigerator cars are at a premium during the winter months, and as most shipments of potatoes from Prince Edward Island are destined to United States points, the problem is aggravated by the fact that many of the cars do not return to Canada as quickly as we would like them to.

I might add that the management of the Canadian National Railways has begun to receive delivery of some 15 cars per day of an order of 500 refrigerator cars.

REVISED STATUTES

INQUIRY AS TO AVAILABILITY OF NEW EDITION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice if he is in a position to tell the house when the new Revised Statutes of Canada will be available.

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): I have nothing to add to the statement I made before the adjournment of the last session of parliament in which I stated I expected they would be available some time in the month of January or February of 1953.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. J. L. DESLIÈRES
AND SECONDED BY MR. N. C. SCHNEIDER

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

(Translation):

Mr. J. L. Deslières (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, it is not without some apprehension that I rise to speak in this house where so