

Mr. BENNETT: I am not unwilling to consider that, but my information is that the first minister, whoever he may be, is regarded as essential for the completion of any delegation which may represent this or any other country. That has been the practice in connection with these conferences. I am not definitely settled in my own mind as to whether or not it should be done, but that is my view at the present moment.

Mr. BOURASSA: Has any information been given to the government as to whether or not the Prime Minister of Australia will attend the conference? The report appears in the press that he will not.

Mr. BENNETT: My information at the moment is that he is pursuing his journey to Great Britain and is expected to be there by the evening of the 29th. If I receive any further information in that regard, I shall be glad to communicate it to the house.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The hon. gentleman has moved that the house form itself into a committee to-day, and has stated that it will be only with our consent. If the house adopts the motion as it is, it will be to consider whether we should form ourselves into a committee, but no consent has been asked.

Mr. BENNETT: No. I once more assure my hon. friend, the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) that it was not intended to proceed with this resolution without the consent of the house, and if it is desired that that consent be asked at this moment rather than later, I shall be very glad to do so.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Thank you.

Motion agreed to.

#### VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) whether resignations have been requested or received from the members of the Vancouver Board of Harbour Commissioners.

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): We have received no resignations and they have not been asked for up to date.

#### APPLE INSPECTORS IN NOVA SCOTIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. L. ILSLEY (Hants-Kings): Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir)

the fact that a large number of apple inspectors are to be appointed in the province of Nova Scotia in order to meet an exceptional situation which has arisen. At a meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association held on Monday night, the hon. minister's fruit commissioner gave assurance that appointments would be made not for political reasons but because of the merits of the applicants. The following report has appeared in the Halifax Herald—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. ILSLEY: This report reads as follows—

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend knows that that is not in order.

Mr. ILSLEY: Will the hon. Minister of Agriculture confirm the assurance given by his fruit commissioner, namely, that the inspectors will be chosen on their merits and not for political reasons?

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt, as far as I am concerned, that every appointment will be made on an efficiency basis, and upon that basis alone.

#### ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

On the orders of the day:

Right hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has doubtless seen in the press of this morning a reference to representations having been made to the government by the United States minister with reference to the immediate construction of the St. Lawrence waterway. I would ask my hon. friend whether he has made any representations to Washington on the matter, and if not, whether representations have been made to him from Washington. If either be the case, will he state whether or not it will be possible for the house to be acquainted with the nature of those representations?

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The question asked by the right hon. gentleman is asked without notice. I decline to be drawn into a discussion of international matters without notice and without opportunity to consider the matter. That was the attitude taken by the right hon. gentleman, and I fancy it to be correct.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I did not intend to ask my hon. friend to give an immediate answer. Will the present question as reported on Hansard serve as a notice?

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.