

2. If so, how many sites and how many acres in each site?

3. (a) Have contracts been let for buildings to be erected on sites mentioned in questions one and two; (b) if so, who are the contractors?

4. Were tenders called for the buildings to be erected on above sites?

EMPLOYMENT OF LAWYERS BY DOMINION GOVERNMENT

Mr. WINKLER:

1. What are the names of lawyers employed by the dominion government or any department thereof, or any dominion board or commission, such as the board of grain commissioners, the transport board, the Canadian wheat board, the Canada farm loan board, the soldier settlement board, etc., in the province of Manitoba in connection with legal work in the years 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940?

2. What fees were paid to each one in those years, specifying the department, board or other body for which such legal work was performed?

PURCHASE OF LAND IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, ONTARIO COUNTY, ONT.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth):

1. Has the government bought land in Pickering township, Ontario county, during the last two years?

2. If so, how many acres?

3. For what purpose is the land to be used?

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE — CORRESPONDENCE WITH RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ELFROS NO. 307

Mr. NICHOLSON:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the prairie farm assistance branch and the rural municipality of Elfros No. 307 during the year 1940 and to date in 1941.

Mr. GARDINER: I know of no reason why all this information should not be brought down, unless any of it has to do with individual yields—that is where affidavits have been taken—that of course cannot be brought down.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Will the minister explain why not?

Mr. GARDINER: In all these cases where an individual has made an affidavit the departmental officials have taken the position continuously since the act was brought in that it would not be in the public interest to bring that information before the house. The individual makes a declaration, which may be four or five acres out one way or the other; it is difficult for individuals to keep track of their acreage sown all the way through the year, and sometimes there is a dispute over the matter which if aired locally might create some misunderstanding.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Even then I do not see that that is a reason for not

bringing it down here on an order of the house. I do not agree with the minister's reason.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion subject to the limitation stated by the minister?

Motion agreed to.

SHIPMENTS OF POTATOES TO SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Mr. HATFIELD:

For a copy of all correspondence and special reports exchanged between J. A. Strong, or the office of the Canadian trade commission in Buenos Aires and the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada regarding shipments of potatoes from Canada to the Argentine and other South American countries since September 1, 1940, to date.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY—CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC

Mr. ROY:

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, and other documents exchanged between the dominion government and the government of the province of Quebec, from January, 1930, to date, regarding the proposed canalization of the St. Lawrence.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As hon. members are aware, negotiations have been proceeding between the government of the United States and our government with respect to the St. Lawrence waterway. To bring down the documents requested would require in the first place the consent of the United States government.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Not this?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, it relates to the St. Lawrence waterway. The fact that the negotiations are between this government and the government of the province of Quebec does not exclude the fact that they relate to matters that are the subject of negotiation at the present time between the United States government and this government, and in the circumstances they should be regarded as confidential. For that reason the correspondence cannot be brought down at the present time.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I must register a protest against that. What is asked for is the correspondence between the government of the province of Quebec and the dominion government regarding a project in which the province of Quebec is vitally interested, and to which the United States of America is not a party. I suggest that such correspondence is not and ought not to be treated as confidential, but should be placed on the table of this house for the information