

while parliament is in session; and it has been farmed out to a contractor. It is hoped that within three or four weeks it may be available.

The other copy which was submitted to the President of the Privy Council was referred, without being examined at all, to the Minister of Finance, and is now in the hands of the experts of the Department of Finance who are preparing memoranda in connection with it for submission to the Minister of Finance. Under these conditions I cannot take the responsibility of taking it away from the experts and making it available for discussion in the debate. It could not be discussed in the debate in the budget without being tabled. I can assure hon. members that everything is being done that can be done to expedite its preparation, but, as Acting Minister of Finance I would not take the responsibility of taking it away from the experts to whom the Minister of Finance referred it for the preparation of memoranda for his use in bringing those recommendations before his colleagues, and making it available to other members of the house. I regret that circumstances are such that I cannot have copies available for hon. members, who I know are, like many others, much interested in ascertaining what are the recommendations in this report.

### QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

#### \*SPECIAL DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES

Mr. DIEFENBAKER:

1. Since November 10, 1944, how many firms, companies or individuals have received or been granted special depreciation allowances?
2. What is the total amount of such allowances so granted?

Mr. McCANN: I desire to answer this question orally. The answer to the first part is, none. The answer to the second part is, answered by No. 1. I recognize that this is not a satisfactory answer, but it is technically a correct answer to the question as we understand it. If the questions were drafted a little differently, however, we could give the information requested by the hon. gentleman. The first question would then be in this form:

Since November 10, 1944, under order in council P.C. 8640 of that date, how many certificates have been granted by the Minister of Reconstruction for depreciation allowances under section 6 (1) (n) (ii) of the Income War Tax Act?

The second question would be:

What is the total amount of depreciation to be allowed under the said certificates on the assumption that the construction in respect of

which the certificate was requested is carried out according to the plan submitted and within the prescribed period?

The answer to the first question is, 1,159; the answer to the second question is \$157,956,-313.07. If that answer is satisfactory to the hon. gentleman who put the question I will table it together with a copy of the order in council under which that comes into effect.

#### LABOUR EXIT PERMITS—EMPLOYMENT OF WOODSMEN IN UNITED STATES

Mr. FLEMING:

1. How many labour exit permits were granted to men to take employment in the woods in the northeastern states of the United States of America, (a) in 1944; (b) in 1945 to date?
2. What is the maximum number of such permits which may be granted for such purpose, and will this maximum be increased?
3. Within what area of Canada have American timber operators been permitted to canvass or advertise for Canadian labour, (a) in 1944; (b) in 1945?

Mr. MITCHELL:

1. The number of labour exit permits granted to men to take employment in the woods in the northeastern states of the United States of America was: (a) In 1944—12,902; (b) In 1945 to date 16,447.

Since more than one labour exit permit may be issued to any one man during any one year it is necessary to state that in 1944 the maximum number of Canadians working on woods operations in the United States with labour exit permits at any one time was 4,993. In 1945, this figure is 4,616.

2. The maximum number of such permits which may be granted for such purpose is 5,060. It is proposed to increase this number to 5,750.

3. American timber operators have been permitted to canvass for Canadian labour in the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec in both 1944 and 1945. None have been permitted to advertise.

#### WAR ASSETS—CORVETTES

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia):

1. How many corvettes have been declared surplus and handed over to the War Assets Corporation for disposal?
2. What has been the cost of each corvette?

Mr. McILRAITH:

1. 87.
2. 30 corvettes at \$958,160 each; 7 corvettes at \$780,296 each; 4 corvettes at \$718,120 each; 46 corvettes at \$690,000 each.