

Inquiries of the Ministry

White (Hastings-Frontenac)
White (Middlesex East)

White (Waterloo South)
Winters—170.

NAYS

Messrs:

Argue
Barnett
Blackmore
Bryce
Bryson
Campbell
Castleden
Coldwell
Ellis
Gillis
Hahn
Hansell
Holowach
Johnson (Kindersley)
Jones
Knight
Knowles
Leboe

Low
McCullough (Moose Mountain)
McLeod
Nicholson
Patterson
Quelch
Regier
Shaw
Smith (Battle River-Camrose)
Stewart (Winnipeg North)
Thomas
Winch
Wylie
Yuill—32.

FRUIT

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I have received a telegram asking me to ascertain if the Minister of Agriculture can give us a report as to the position of this government on the request of the British Columbia fruit industry for a joint dominion-provincial royal commission. I might say the telegram indicates that there is some reluctance on the part of this government to grant such a commission. I hope the minister will be able to correct that understanding and that the request will be granted.

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): I understand that the minister of agriculture for British Columbia is on his way to Ottawa to discuss the question. I would hesitate to make an answer to the question until he has been here. Up to the moment we have suggested that we think, if a royal commission is to be appointed, it should be appointed by the provincial government.

Mr. Fulton: As a supplementary question, may I ask whether that means the minister's present inclination is that there should not be federal participation or merely that the request should come from the provincial government?

Mr. Gardiner: The position we have taken up to the present is that if a royal commission is going to be appointed to examine into this industry in British Columbia it should be appointed by the provincial government, but we have undertaken to place all of our experts and our information at their disposal if they undertake to do so.

Mr. Nowlan: If the federal government should decide to co-operate in a royal commission, would it be made applicable to the apple industry of Canada, as a whole, and not just to British Columbia?

Mr. Gardiner: This is a question which, of course, enters into consideration of the other question, but there would be some difficulty in having one operate that way.

Mr. Jones: Do I understand that the minister has not definitely turned down the request of the B.C. tree fruit growers? I understood you had turned them down, but now I understand you are going to consider the matter when the application is formally made.

Mr. Gardiner: We had definitely turned down the request that a royal commission be appointed by the federal government, and suggested if there was going to be one it should be appointed by the province. Now, the suggestion, which I understand the minister is coming here to discuss, is that we should appoint a commission jointly. We have not given final consideration to that until we hear what the minister has to say.

PACIFIC GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

REPORT OF APPROVAL OF GRANT BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. H. Goode (Burnaby-Richmond): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, based on a Vancouver *Province* dispatch that Premier Bennett had gleefully announced that the federal cabinet had approved a \$10,400,000 grant to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway in British Columbia. My question is, when did the cabinet approve this grant?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I have not seen that dispatch. There must be some misunderstanding about it because there has been no approval of any grants. The Minister of Trade and Commerce and I had an interview with Mr. Bennett on the 19th. We discussed the situation in British Columbia and we were delighted to hear the premier say that there was so much development going on there. He mentioned several projects that he thought should have federal assistance or federal consideration, and with respect to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway he was to see the Department of Transport and submit the request he was going to make to that department. I asked him to indicate from point to point where he wanted to ask for a subsidy,