

## Supply—Trade and Commerce

issued by the patent office, all of them to corporations in the United States and not one to any company in Canada apart from Frosst and company.

I think this is one thing which perhaps the royal commission might deal with. If it has done so we will know when its report is printed and circularized. If not, there is one thing which I think the Secretary of State's office and the patent office might conduct an inquiry into themselves, and that is the need of granting patents for control and manufacture of goods in Canada exclusively to United States corporations. All of these corporations, incidentally, have subsidiary companies in Canada, but it is the head office and address of the corporations in the United States to whom the patents are issued.

Why is not some use made of the licensing section of the Patent Act to ensure that Canadian pharmaceutical manufacturing industries are developed under patents issued by the commissioner of patents in order to bring some competition into the drug field and also assist in bringing down the price of drugs in Canada, which are, as has been indicated, the highest in the world?

I had better not go further on the drug question, and I appreciate the fact that you have let me get so far.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, in reply to the question asked earlier, the cumulative cost of the Ilsley commission to the end of the present fiscal year is \$60,200.

Item agreed to.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

General administration—

688. Exhibitions branch—further amount required, \$63,400.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, there is a great deal of interest in exhibitions. Perhaps the minister could start out by telling us why this extra money is needed and then perhaps go on from there and give us the latest dope on Montreal.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Chairman, there are two items involved here, an item of \$14,600 for salaries and wages following the reorganization of the branch in the Department of Trade and Commerce. Then there is an item of \$48,800 to cover the cost of participation in the *Daily Mail* ideal home exhibition which has been held in London, England, from March 1 to March 26.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** This seems to have been a kind of expensive reorganization, to cost \$14,000. Could the minister say what the purpose of the reorganization was?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** To make a more effective organizational structure in the branch for this purpose. There has been quite a lot of activity in this field. There have been a great many exhibitions and the reorganization which was carried out in this branch was considered necessary to cope with the burden being cast on the exhibitions branch. It is not a very large item. The size of it can be judged in relation to the original item in the main estimates of \$790,592. This portion of the supplementary estimate is \$14,600.

The other and larger item of \$48,800 is attributable to the exhibition I mentioned.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Could the minister tell us about the *Daily Mail* ideal home exhibition? It has certainly caught my fancy and I am sure the public would like to know what it is about.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** The exhibition opened in London on March 1 and ran until March 26. It was estimated that approximately 1,500,000 people visited the exhibition. Retail sales were permitted and consumer interest was high. Canadian firms showed a lot of interest in the exhibition and co-operation was excellent. This particular exhibition lent itself to the display of many types of consumer goods, such as household appliances, toys, footwear, textiles, hi-fi, luggage, sporting goods, ladies wear and similar items. Emphasis was placed on processed food such as canned fish, and perhaps there may even have been some from Newfoundland there.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Could the minister assure me that there was some from Newfoundland?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** A trend house was constructed to promote the use of Canadian lumber in construction. The cost of this particular house was shared with the British Columbia lumbermen's manufacturers' association.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Could the minister tell us if consideration is being given to the re-institution of the international trade fair which we used to have in the city of Toronto, or something comparable to it?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I understand not, sir.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The minister did not tell us anything about the proposed fair in Montreal. Is that being run by the exhibitions branch?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** There is nothing in this item for that purpose.