

4. If the government had no authority from parliament for the contract made with Sir Henry Thornton, why did the government make such contract?

5. If the government was of opinion that a contract of the nature made with Sir Henry Thornton was necessary, and if there was not authority in law to make it, why was parliament not asked at last session to grant such authority by statute in the usual way?

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM:

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. None.

4. It was deemed in the public interest to definitely secure the services of Sir Henry Thornton, and, as the Board of Directors had not been previously appointed, the government decided to make an arrangement with him and rely on the board ratifying it, as has been done.

5. The circumstances under which it became advisable to execute this contract were not contemplated during last session of parliament.

LOUIS LEBLANC

Mr. HANSON:

1. Was the position of light-house keeper at Carleton Point, Quebec, held by Louis LeBlanc prior to November 15th, 1922?

2. Was the said Louis LeBlanc dismissed from the service?

3. If so, why?

4. Were any charges laid against the said Louis LeBlanc?

5. If so, was an official inquiry held, was the said Louis LeBlanc brought before an official tribunal and what were the findings of the official tribunal, if any?

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Political partisanship.
4. Yes.
5. No.

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICANTS

Mr. EVANS:

1. What was the per capita consumption and per capita expenditure of all intoxicating beverages generally in Canada during the years 1914, 1920, 1921 and 1922, on the basis of the excise returns?

2. What were the figures by provinces?

Hon. Mr. BUREAU:

1. Per capita consumption of domestic beer and spirits based on excise returns during the fiscal years mentioned.

Fiscal year	Beer Gals.	Spirits Proof Gals.
1914	6.942	0.590
1920	4.096	0.424
1921	3.945	0.313
1922	4.389	0.204

Per capita expenditure not available from excise returns as these returns show quantities of beer and spirits, and not values.

2. Information not available for the same reason. Beer and spirits upon which excise duties are paid in one province are not all consumed in such province.

SALES TAX COLLECTION

Mr. JOHNSON (Moose Jaw):

1. What were the sales tax collections, by months, during the calendar year 1922?
2. What were the collections on domestic sales, and imports, respectively?

Hon. Mr. BUREAU:

Period	Domestic	Imports	Total
1922			
January	\$4,280,908 70	\$1,330,333 10	\$5,611,241 80
February	2,935,733 48	1,372,919 69	4,308,653 17
March	3,208,772 71	1,984,678 91	5,193,451 62
April	2,072,795 69	1,254,350 87	3,327,146 56
May	3,829,680 84	1,771,193 00	5,600,873 84
June	3,910,192 57	2,376,161 46	6,286,354 03
July	5,072,101 64	2,338,538 20	7,410,639 84
August	5,558,573 84	2,634,669 71	8,193,243 55
September	6,314,427 85	2,387,863 36	8,702,291 21
October	6,692,070 84	2,533,984 44	9,226,055 28
November	6,213,902 40	2,663,118 62	8,877,021 02
December	6,113,319 02	2,471,639 60	8,584,958 62
	<u>\$56,202,479 58</u>	<u>\$25,119,450 96</u>	<u>\$81,321,930 54</u>

IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MARTELL:

1. Was a conference ever held between representatives of the various provincial governments of the provinces of Canada and the federal government of Canada, between the years 1912 and 1922, with a view to securing for the four original provinces of confederation an irreducible minimum of representatives in the Canadian House of Commons?

2. If so, what was the result of said conference?

Right Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE KING:

1. There is no record in any of the government departments of any such conference having been held.

2. Answered by No. 1.

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

OFFICIALS ATTENDING FAIRS

Mr. LEADER:

1. How many officials of the Department of Agriculture attended fairs during the nine months ending December 31, 1922, and what duties did they fulfil?

2. What was the total expense incurred by such officials?

CIVIL SERVANTS—POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. DONALD SUTHERLAND (Oxford South): Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct the attention of the Prime Minister to a despatch which appeared in the press on the 13th in-