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that there is very little. I recall that over a year ago the matter was first broached to me by the minister of resources for the province of Alberta, and the suggestion was made then that, since certain oil interests were concerned, the provincial authorities should discuss the matter with them before we would be warranted in giving authority to vary the terms of the licences which had been issued. Subsequently that was done, and we were advised several weeks ago by representatives of the oil interests and by the province that they wished to have the agreement amended to give effect to certain understandings they had reached.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

PRICE CEILING—POTATOES

Mr. HATFIELD:

1. Did the wartime prices and trade board release a statement to the newspapers regarding the establishing of a price ceiling on potatoes in which there was mention of speculative buying?

2. If so, what evidence is there of speculative buying?

Mr. ILSLEY:

1. Yes.
2. Potato price quotations collected by the wartime prices and trade board indicate that in many cases the spread between prices received by the grower and prices paid by the consumer widened appreciably in the period immediately prior to the application of the ceiling on potato prices. These facts were accepted by the board as evidence of speculative buying.

ESTEVAN-BIENFAIT LIGNITE COAL AREA—POWER

Mr. TRIPP:

In view of the increased demand for electrical energy for manufacturing purposes, will the government favourably consider developing a head of power in the Estevan, Bienfait lignite coal area?

Mr. HOWE: The federal government does not assume financial responsibility for developing power projects. However, the information is that the supply of power in the Moose Jaw-Regina area at the present exceeds the demand, and, until such time as this is taken up, it is unlikely that any additional power development will be undertaken in this area.

[Mr. Crerar.]

*SMALL MACHINE SHOPS IN WAR PRODUCTION

Mr. CASTLEDEN:

1. What steps have been taken to utilize the smaller machine shops throughout the dominion in war production?

2. How many of these shops capable of some war production are still not utilized in such work?

Mr. HOWE:

1. As a result of approximately 1,800 surveys of machine shops alone, every effort has been made and is being made to bring all of the machine shops in Canada into war production, consistent with the efficiency required to make as much war material as possible, as soon as possible.

We are still in the position, partly due to shortages in raw materials, of being able to select first those machine shops which can be used most efficiently. This efficiency depends upon:

(i) A combination of good management and skilled labour with machine tools which are in shape to do the precision work required in to-day's war machines;

(ii) Reasonable proximity to the prime contractor's plant, so that supervision of quality and deliveries can be maintained and a minimum of time lost in transportation;

(iii) A reasonably sound financial condition, which enables the shop to finance its expanded operations.

2. A considerable number, particularly those located at a long distance from a prime contractor. This condition may continue until the raw material shortage becomes less acute.

There is a substantial surplus of certain types of machine tools, and these are, generally speaking, of the types found in the smaller shops. The machine tools of which there is an acute shortage are of types found only in the larger shops.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Mr. HANSON (Skeena):

1. What was the cost of aids to navigation (lighthouse service) for 1941, (a) Atlantic coast, (b) Pacific coast, (c) inland?

2. What was the total cost?

Mr. MICHAUD:

1. Cost of aids to navigation (lighthouse service), including operation of dominion steamers for same for the fiscal year 1940-41: (a) Atlantic coast, \$1,143,962.10; (b) Pacific coast, \$387,528.53; (c) Inland waters, \$1,379,344.22.

2. Total cost, \$2,910,834.85.

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PRICE CEILING—FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Mr. HATFIELD:

1. Are any rebates or other payments in connection with price levels being paid to importers of orange juice, oranges, bananas, lettuce, and celery?

2. If so, what amounts have been paid to date?

Mr. ILSLEY:

1. Under the import policy of the wartime prices and trade board orange juice is eligible for subsidy, but oranges, bananas, lettuce and celery are not subject to the price ceiling and consequently do not qualify for subsidy.

2. None.

ANTI-TANK SHELLS

Mr. ROY:

1. Were any anti-tank shells No. 1, 1936, B.S., shipped as scrap from St. Paul l'Ermite or Sorel, in the province of Quebec?

2. If so, (a) for what reason was this ammunition rejected, (b) where was it manufactured, (c) was it made under contract, and by whom, (d) what was the quantity and total cost, (e) who is responsible for the defective nature of such ammunition?

Mr. HOWE:

1. No.

2. Answered by 1.

*SHIPBUILDING

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland):

1. What is the number, the total tonnage and the estimated cost of all ships ordered built by the government of Canada or by any other government to be built in Canada of 100 tons capacity or more for commercial purposes, since September 10, 1939, in each of the following provinces, (1) Nova Scotia, (2) New Brunswick, (3) Prince Edward Island, (4) Quebec, (5) Ontario, (6) British Columbia?

2. What is the number and the total tonnage of all ships launched in each province to March 14, 1942?

Mr. HOWE: This question asks for total production in a certain line of war effort. I have no objection personally to giving the information, but we have been asked specifically by the British government, and an agreement has been entered into on the part of the British government, the United States government and the government of Canada, not to give total production figures of war materials. I notice that in the discussion last evening, the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) raised the point, and I must say the same to him. He stated that figures were given in periodicals. We cannot help that.

Mr. MacINNIS: Where did they get the information?

Mr. HOWE: They can probably collect it from the shipyards. It is not hard to get. But publishing unofficial information is different from giving out official information; at least that is the view of the allied governments, and until the allied governments change their position in that regard I do not intend to give figures on total production.

Mr. SPEAKER: Answered.

*BARRAGE BALLOONS

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West):

1. Has a committee been set up to arrange for barrage balloon protection for cities on Canada's coasts?

2. Have we any barrage balloons in Canada?

Mr. POWER: I would ask the hon. member to withdraw this question as not being in the public interest.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Would the minister give the information privately?

Mr. POWER: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dropped.

GOVERNMENT FILM COMMISSIONER

Mr. MCGREGOR:

1. What is the total amount that has been paid to John Grierson in salary, fees and/or allowances as government film commissioner?

2. What is the total amount of money that has been paid to John Grierson since he has been employed by the government in any capacity whatsoever, including travelling expenses?

Mr. THORSON:

1.

Fiscal year	Salary
1939-40.....	\$ 1,987 10
1940-41.....	5,703 43
1941-42.....	6,899 99
Total.....	\$14,590 52

No fees or allowances.

2.

Fiscal year	Fee	Salary	Travelling expenses
1938-39.....	\$3,650	None	None
1939-40.....	None	\$ 1,987 10	\$ 612 34
1940-41.....	"	5,703 43	1,105 99
1941-42.....	"	6,899 99	5,948 58
	\$3,650	\$14,590 52	\$7,666 91

Total amount paid—\$25,907.43.