

Inquiries of the Ministry

service with the forces. So that this, for the duration of the order in council, takes care of the superannuation matter.

As far as seniority is concerned, by virtue of P.C. 28/4244 of 31st August 1950, passed under the provisions of the Civil Service Act, permanent members of the public service, and temporary employees who have qualified by examination for the position which they occupied at the date of enlistment, or who have not qualified by examination for the position which they held at enlistment but who as veterans have been continuously employed since January 1, 1948, or who have not qualified by examination but have been continuously employed since January 1, 1945, are treated as being on leave of absence without pay from a civil position for the period during which they are enlisted or enrolled for service with the Canadian Army special force, but the civil service commission is arranging the proper recommendations to have the same provision apply to members of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

As hon. members are aware, these orders in council would be effective only up to the end of this session; but there is on the order paper a resolution to provide statutory enactments to replace the orders in council, and to have the proper provision made by parliament to take care of the matters to which the hon. member's question refers.

WOOL**COMMITTEE TO PURCHASE ARMED FORCES REQUIREMENTS—PROCESSING IN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. Earl Catherwood (Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the wool purchasing agency which has been set up under the Canadian Commercial Corporation in operation as yet? Is it the intention of this agency to purchase raw wool only from sources outside this country so that it can be processed in Canada?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The answer to the first question is yes. A committee has been appointed to buy raw wool to meet the requirements of the Canadian armed services.

The answer to the second question is that all processing will be done in Canada, with the exception of combed wool tops, which will be partly finished in this country. Our capacity for combed wool tops is not sufficient to meet the expected demand, but wool tops will be processed here to the extent that Canadian production will permit.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

POSTAL SERVICE**APPLICATION TO POSTMASTERS OF PUBLIC SERVICE PAY INCREASES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. Langlois (Parliamentary Assistant to the Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, on March 5, as reported in *Hansard* at page 895, the hon. member for Huron North (Mr. Cardiff) asked whether the postmasters who are not civil servants will receive the same proposed increase in salary benefits as those who are civil servants, and if so, when they may expect to receive it.

I replied at that time by stating that I would take the hon. member's question as a notice. My reply today is that postmasters of this category are civil servants in the general meaning of the term. They too will get the benefit of the salary increase as of December 1, at the same rate as others. The date of the receipt of the increase will depend upon the action taken by parliament.

Mr. Graydon: Will that apply to the rural mail carriers too?

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): No.

Mr. Graydon: Why are they always left out?

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): They are not employees of the Postmaster General's department.

Mr. Graydon: They do not get enough money, either.

LETTER CARRIERS—REFERENCE TO PRESS REPORT AS TO STATEMENT OF DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Noseworthy (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Postmaster General whether a report in yesterday's press stating that the deputy postmaster general had said that the trouble in Toronto in connection with letter carriers was communist-inspired has come to his attention, and if so, whether he cares to make a statement.

Hon. Edouard Rinfret (Postmaster General): I saw that report in the press and I discussed it with the deputy postmaster general. He has denied having made any such statement.

PASSAMAQUODDY TIDAL PROJECT**QUESTION AS TO REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has