

Canada Prize Act

Does that mean the appropriations that are now in the vote for stores and purchases, or does it mean special appropriations to be put in?

Mr. Chevrier: No, it does not. It means a separate appropriation which will be indicated in the estimates of the Department of Transport as an item "sold to crown assets" or as an item "destroyed".

Mr. Knowles: In other words, if there is a loss through the deletion of obsolete or un-serviceable stores, in the last analysis it will be paid for by a special vote?

Mr. Chevrier: That is right.

Mr. Knowles: Can the minister answer one other question? I note that reference is made to "stores lost or destroyed". Has the value of stores lost been of any magnitude?

Mr. Chevrier: I am not able to indicate what amount of stores has been destroyed or disposed of. For instance, in the fire which took place at the marine agency in Quebec some weeks ago, a substantial quantity of stores was destroyed. But to what extent or what the amount is, I am not able to say.

Mr. Knowles: My question relates particularly to the use of the word "lost". When reference is made to stores lost, does it mean lost by fire, or just by inexplicable disappearance?

Mr. Chevrier: It can be lost in more than one manner. It can be lost by fire. It can be lost by breakage. There are articles that break from time to time, such as bulbs. In the marine end concerning marine services and lighthouse services, there are a number of things that are breakable. Then from time to time there is the commission of theft, and articles disappear in that manner.

Section agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

CANADA PRIZE ACT**PROVISION FOR PAYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE MONEY**

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence) moved that the house go into committee to consider Bill No. 221, to provide for the payment and distribution of prize money.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

Sections 1 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The Chairman: Shall the bill carry?

Mr. Fulton: On division.

The Chairman: Shall I report the bill?

Mr. Fulton: On division.

Bill reported.

Mr. Claxton moved the third reading of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. Fulton: On division.

Motion agreed to on division and bill read the third time and passed.

ELECTRICITY INSPECTION ACT**AMENDMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SEALING OF METERS, FEES, ETC.**

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved the second reading of Bill No. 263, to amend the Electricity Inspection Act, 1928.

Mr. Fulton: Will the minister explain the import and purpose of this bill?

Mr. Howe: The purpose of the bill to amend the Electricity Inspection Act is threefold. First, it incorporates in the act certain changes which have been effected by the Public Service Rearrangement and Transfer of Duties Act. Second, it seeks power for the governor in council to alter the statutory period for verification of meters.

Section 10 of the Electricity Inspection Act and section 9 of the Gas Inspection Act require meters to be presented by the owners for reverification within six years from the last verification. The verification of a meter entails its being taken out of service to a place having special technical apparatus and equipment, and meanwhile a replacing meter must be installed in the consumer's premises. There are hundreds of thousands of meters to thus verify. During the war, the restrictions and scarcities were such that this peacetime process of verification was impossible. Consequently the wartime meter inspection order, being order in council P.C. 1450 of February 23, 1943, was made under the War Measures Act, which stated that those provisions of the two acts were not to apply to certain electricity and gas meters. It was revoked on April 1, 1947.

The result was that the statutory period for verification was interrupted for over four years, so that when the order in council was revoked there was a huge backlog of unverified meters. Not only did this present a very serious physical problem to the public utilities by reason of material and labour shortages, and to the inspection service, but it also presented a legal problem as to what was