

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Howe) or his parliamentary assistant. Is the report correct that the government has ordered two jet-powered Comet airliners from the de Havilland company of England? If so, why was this aircraft preferred over the Avro jetliner developed by A. V. Roe Canada Limited with substantial government assistance? Have any orders been received for this Avro jetliner?

**Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Defence Production):** In the absence of the minister may I say that notice of the question has just come to my attention. I would prefer to let the question stand as notice, and give an answer later.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Very well.

**WHEAT****ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS—MEETING IN REGINA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Has he received a report from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) of the meeting he held in Regina with provincial government representatives and farm leaders on methods of assistance to western farmers? Is the Prime Minister in a position to announce financial aid to farmers on un-threshed grain as forecast by the Minister of Trade and Commerce on November 15?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** The answer to both questions is no.

**POSTAL SERVICE****PARCEL POST RATES TO FORCES IN KOREA AND EUROPE—SPECIAL FORCES LETTER**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Postmaster General, of which I have given notice. What are the rates for parcel post from Canada to our forces in Korea and in Europe, and what is the maximum weight of each parcel that can be sent? Is the government giving consideration to reducing these rates and increasing the weight of parcels which can be sent?

**Hon. Edouard Rinfret (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question. Whereas the civilian rates for parcel post from Canada to Korea range from 40 cents for one pound to \$2.10 for ten pounds, the rate for the services is 15 cents a pound. This was introduced in October, 1950. About three weeks or a month ago we extended the same privilege at the same rate

[Mr. Coldwell.]

to our forces in Europe. The maximum weight of each parcel is ten pounds.

The answer to the second question is no.

Then, if I may be allowed, I am proud to be able to announce a special forces letter to be introduced on December 1, 1951, available for air communication to and from forces overseas, regardless of location. They are similar in form to our Canada air letter, but buff in colour. They are at present being distributed to all post offices, and will be supplied free to mailers upon request. The postal rate will be 5 cents as compared with 15 cents at the present time for one-quarter ounce to Europe, and 15 cents for the Canada air letter to Europe.

**MING SUNG INDUSTRIAL COMPANY****USE OF CANADIAN FLAG**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer given in sessional paper 167-A, which was a reply to certain questions of the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes) and a copy of which I have just received, I wish to ask a question of the Prime Minister, of which previous notice has not been given, but in regard to which he will have the facts available, without notice.

Has the government rescinded the order in council permitting certain ships operated by the Ming Sung Industrial Company Limited to fly the Canadian flag and have the privileges which this affords?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the answer at this time is no. The ships have not returned to Hong Kong, and it is not known by us just where they are at this time. Negotiation is going on with the representatives of the Ming Sung Company of Canada Limited. They have been informed that those ships cannot be allowed to carry on under Canadian registry, and as the banks have the mortgages registered against them the negotiations look to the transfer of register where there could also be transfer of registry of these mortgages. I have not within the last few days had any report as to the progress that has been made, but I know that these negotiations are on. Meantime representatives of the Ming Sung Company of Canada Limited have been informed that we cannot allow the ships to continue to operate under the Canadian flag.

**Mr. Drew:** I suggest to the Prime Minister that the information he has given and the fact that the Canadian government does not know where these ships are now is all