

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Drew: The Minister of Public Works indicated that it was a year; his words were:

The information asked for can only be provided back to the 1st of July, 1951.

That is what he said after having explained the procedure.

Mr. Claxton: That is quite right.

Mr. Drew: That simply leaves it in the way I have indicated. In view of the question having been asked earlier and the fact that it must have called for some action by the department at that time, with the probability that a file exists in relation to this particular matter, I would ask that it be reviewed on that basis.

PRIME MINISTER**INQUIRY AS TO VISIT TO INDIA, PAKISTAN AND CEYLON**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. I called the Prime Minister a few minutes before the house convened to give him notice. Around the end of May, Elmore Philpott of the Vancouver *Sun* reported an interview with the Prime Minister which indicated that he was making plans to visit India, Pakistan and Ceylon this coming fall. Would the Prime Minister care to indicate to the house whether he intends to make such a trip?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did see Mr. Philpott some weeks ago and I told him that if it were possible for me to accept invitations I had received to visit the capitals of commonwealth sister nations in Asia I would be very glad to do so. He had recently returned from the east and during the course of our conversation it was indicated that autumn would be the most comfortable time to visit those capitals. That is as far as it went. I am sorry that I have no plans at the present time for accepting that invitation at any early date.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I feel sure that should the possibility of such a trip present itself the members of this house and the Canadian people would be most happy that the Prime Minister of Canada was able in that way to express the good will of Canada to the sister nations of the commonwealth whose close association with us is so important at this time.

Mr. St. Laurent: I can assure hon. members that such a trip would be most interesting personally and I feel it would be the kind
[Mr. Claxton.]

of gesture that most Canadians would like to see made whenever the time was convenient to make it.

WHEAT**PEACE RIVER COUNTRY—REQUEST FOR FACILITIES FOR REMOVAL OF WHEAT IN STORAGE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce to a rather serious situation which exists in the Peace river country. I should like to ask him a question, but in order to do so I shall have to give some information. I hope Your Honour will be indulgent with me this morning because this may be the last opportunity I shall have to draw this matter to the attention of the minister.

There is in the Peace river country 10,500,000 bushels of wheat still in storage: 8,500,000 bushels in the elevators and 2 million bushels still in storage on the farm. They have only shipped 23,500,000 bushels from the Peace river country this year, which means that in the next two months, if they are to be ready for the next crop, over 5,000 carloads will have to be shipped out of that country if the farmers are to have any storage space available. Will the parliamentary assistant draw this matter to the attention of the wheat board and the transport controller to see if cars cannot be provided for that area?

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to have the whole situation looked into and if anything should be done I will see that the necessary action is taken.

FINANCE**REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES IN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question of which I have given rather brief notice. Could the Minister of Finance before the house adjourns give us any further indication of the course of government receipts and expenditures to date in the current fiscal year?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I thank my hon. friend for having given me notice of his question. I have made inquiries and I find that the statement of the comptroller of the treasury covering April and May will be published in this week's *Canada*