

Canadian Commercial Corporation

Mr. Thatcher: Is it government policy that the corporation shall not take part in such transactions? If it is, will the minister not consider changing that policy so that the corporation can dispose of some of our surplus produce if necessary?

Mr. Howe: The corporation is not the agency for that purpose unless arrangements are made to use it as a selling agency.

Mr. Jaenicke: The annual report of the Canadian Commercial Corporation states that the corporation acted as the agency for the government in placing contracts to a total value of \$55,795,419 to the end of March, 1948. Would it be too much trouble for the minister to give us a breakdown up to date, including contracts that have been negotiated since that time? I would like to know the commodity involved in each contract.

Mr. Howe: I have not the list here but I suggest that it might be more convenient to discuss this when the bill is in committee.

Mr. Jaenicke: Could not the list be placed on *Hansard* so that we could peruse it?

Mr. Howe: This table that I have includes national defence purchases as well as purchases for other governments. I could have a table prepared and distributed tomorrow.

Mr. Fulton: Will the minister not acquiesce in the request made by the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) that the balance sheet be carried out to December 31 between now and the time the bill is up for second reading? We could then make up our minds whether there is a real need for this extra \$2,500,000.

Mr. Howe: The figures will all be available.

Mr. Thatcher: Does the corporation have representatives abroad or are the trade commissioners the only representatives of the government abroad?

Mr. Howe: The corporation does not have representatives abroad except in London and Washington.

Mr. Thatcher: Does the corporation do any advertising abroad?

Mr. Howe: No. The foreign trade service of the Department of Trade and Commerce is the agency that is used to obtain commercial intelligence in all parts of the world. Anything that the Canadian Commercial Corporation needs to know about foreign markets can be obtained from the foreign trade service.

Mr. Thatcher: What representatives or agents has the corporation across Canada? Are efforts made to sell some of these products domestically?

[Mr. Howe.]

Mr. Howe: No, the corporation is not a selling agency in that sense. In other words, it is not in the retail business. It is not a Loblaw's. The corporation has offices in Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Washington, D.C., and London, England.

Mr. Gibson (Comox-Alberni): The minister said that one reason why timber control was being retained was that the British government were still making bulk purchases. Would it not be possible for the Canadian Commercial Corporation to undertake that work and act as purchasing agent for the British government? What policy would be followed if purchases were made in that way? Would there be an allocation as between the various producers, or would they be on a competitive basis?

Mr. Howe: As my hon. friend knows, throughout the war years, lumber was one commodity that was bought through the lumber controller. That was because the specifications were so important. Over-all arrangements were made and continue to be made through the timber controller's office.

Mr. Hatfield: Was it the Canadian Commercial Corporation that traded British Columbia apples for Brazilian oranges?

Mr. Howe: No.

Mr. Thatcher: Is the corporation still trying to make deals with UNRRA or other relief organizations to dispose of some of the surplus horse meat in Saskatchewan?

Mr. Howe: The horse meat that Saskatchewan sold outside the country was sold by a government agency.

Mr. Case: Is that horse meat to be consumed in Saskatchewan or is it just for export?

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Howe thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 122, to amend the Canadian Commercial Corporation Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

NATIONAL PARKS ACT

BANFF—EXCLUSION OF AREA REQUIRED FOR SPRAY LAKES POWER AND STORAGE PROJECT

Hon. J. A. MacKinnon (Minister of Mines and Resources) moved the second reading of Bill No. 81, to amend the National Parks Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Golding in the chair.