

of the Japanese race who were ordinarily resident in the protected areas when such protected areas were proclaimed. That also is something which is under consideration, and it had been hoped that we might have the opportunity of getting the advice of the British Columbia security commission as to what agency should have the determining of the portions of the province of British Columbia where these persons of Japanese origin might not go, even temporarily.

I trust that it will be possible to get at a very early date the advice of the British Columbia security commission upon those two points.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Justice relating to this Japanese situation. If he is not able to answer to-day, it may stand as a notice.

In a communication which I received to-day from British Columbia the question is raised as to who is to support the Japanese population now being removed from the protected area. They have been spoken of as being wards of the government. Will the Minister of Justice throw some light on this question, having regard to the allegation which has reached me that many of these Japanese are well able to take care of their own requirements with respect to food and clothing? If they are to be interned in the ordinary sense, I understand what the position would be. If they are not to be interned in the strict sense of the word, of course they might be expected to look after some of their own requirements. I should like to know what the position is in this respect.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I shall be glad if this question may stand as a notice, for further consideration.

PROVISION FOR GUARDING THOSE IN WORK CAMPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): Will the Minister of Labour explain what provision is being made to guard the Japanese in the government work camps?

Mr. MITCHELL: That is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice. Ample protection is being provided through that department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Is it just the police who are guarding the Japanese, or are soldiers put on that work also?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

IRRIGATION

ST. MARY AND MILK RIVERS WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Resources. Has the St. Mary and Milk rivers water development committee, appointed to consider the Lethbridge South-eastern water conservation project, yet submitted its report to the minister? If not, why not? Will the minister inform the house when, approximately, we may expect this report to be tabled?

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): I understand that the committee held its last meeting on February 16 for the preparation of the report, which is now in draft form. That is going forward to Mr. George Spence, a member of the committee, and director of prairie farm rehabilitation operations in Saskatchewan, who is now in western Canada. It is expected that the report will be ready within a few weeks.

COST OF LIVING BONUS

ORDER IN COUNCIL P.C. 8253—POLICY AND PROCEDURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): I should like to direct an inquiry to the Minister of Labour. There seems to be confusion in the minds of some wage-earners in Canada over the government's policy relating to the cost of living bonus. Some are paid it. Some are not. The reasons for the distinction in such cases are not always clear to the workers or to the public. The *Ottawa Journal* of last Wednesday cited the Minister of Labour as indicating that no general policy is being applied, and that each case is being dealt with on its merits. There may be good reasons for the lack of a general policy in this regard, but I wish to ask the minister if he will make a brief statement to the house clarifying the situation so that our working folk may clearly understand the policy which is now being pursued and the procedure to which they must conform in order to seek its application to their individual cases.

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): A definite general policy in this regard is being applied by the government. That policy is set forth in an order in council, P.C. 8253 of October 24, 1941.

The principal mandatory features concerning cost of living bonus are: