

## QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. REID (Mackenzie):

1. Did the Government operate a telegraph line in northern British Columbia prior to the taking over of the Great North Western Telegraph Company's line in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and Canadian Northern Railway?

2. Is the Government still operating both telegraph lines, namely, the old government line and the Great North Western Telegraph line?

3. Why is the Government continuing to operate two telegraph offices in Hazelton, New Hazelton, Smithers, Telkwa and some other points along the Grand Trunk Pacific?

4. Does the business warrant the maintaining of two separate telegraph offices in the towns mentioned?

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE

On the Orders of the Day.

Mr. J. A. ROBB (Chateauguay-Huntingdon): I desire to direct the attention of the Prime Minister to the following despatch which recently appeared in the press:

Washington, D.C., April 7.—Thirty nations will be represented at the conference of ambassadors and ministers on world trade to be held in New York, May 16-18 inclusive, the department of commerce to-day announced. The conference has been arranged by the National Association of Manufacturers in order to enlist the active co-operation of the nation's producers in stabilizing and stimulating reciprocal world trade and will be the first of its kind in this country.

As there are thirty nations to be represented at this Conference, the Prime Minister might say whether Canada is to be one of them.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Prime Minister): I have no recollection of the matter having been under consideration. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) would know something about it. He will be here to-morrow, and in the meantime I shall call his attention to the question.

## OIL LEASES

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. W. A. GRIESBACH (Edmonton West): I beg to direct the attention of the Government to the matter of the delay in the issuing of oil leases in the province of Alberta, and in the North-West Territory. I have received a large number of communications on the subject, informing me that applications for leases made as far back as November have met with no response from the department. As a result, the necessary machinery cannot be ordered

and the whole industry is held up through this delay. What steps have been taken to meet the situation?

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Prime Minister): The hon. member was good enough to give me notice about a week ago that he would ask this question at that time on the Orders of the Day. I had a memorandum prepared to enable me to answer it, but the hon. member did not ask the question. I have not that memorandum to-day, but I shall bring it to-morrow and answer the question.

## BONUS TO CIVIL SERVANTS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. B. McCOIG (Kent): An article appeared in last night's Journal to the effect that civil servants will still receive the bonus they got last year, in view of the fact that the Estimates to be submitted will be sufficient for the purpose. Is this correct? If so, will members of this House have an opportunity of discussing the matter before the order goes into effect? The article in question states that there is a sufficient sum to cover the 25 per cent reduction that is contemplated.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Prime Minister): The Government's position as respects the bonus is as stated by me at the time this question was first raised, I think by the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Murphy). There has been no change. The subject, of course, may be discussed when the Estimate for the paying of the bonus is under consideration.

Mr. McCOIG: Will hon. members have an opportunity to discuss the matter before the order goes into effect?

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is no bonus statutorily payable, it is payable by virtue of a vote of Parliament. If hon. members think that the vote we submit for the purpose of paying the bonus on the reduced basis is too small, they may, of course, argue accordingly in the House. There will be ample opportunity for discussion.

## CHIEF RAILWAY COMMISSIONER'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. H. M. MOWAT (Parkdale): I desire to ask the Government the two following questions: First: Is the Government aware that Hon. F. B. Carvell, Chief Railway Commissioner, recently said at Vancouver that the action of Parliament in