

British Duties on Copper

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): In reply to my hon. friend, I may say that I have no idea what the plans of the commission are, however, I shall be pleased to communicate to them the request of the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay.

SOCKEYE SALMON TREATY

On the orders of the day.

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes), in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Bennett), to inquire if the government is now considering the making of representations to the government of the United States with respect to the ratification of the sockeye salmon treaty.

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Acting Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I should prefer to take this as a notice of question in order that I may make myself familiar with the recent developments within the department.

WINTER WORK IN OUR PORTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I also wish to put a question to the Acting Minister of Marine (Mr. Dupré). As he is aware, the navigation season will soon close; generally, the employees whose services have been required during that season are placed at the disposal of the board of harbour commissioners. I wish to inquire whether it would be possible, this year, to request these various boards, especially those connected with inland harbours, such as Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal, to employ, as much as possible, on winter work, the men who were at their service during the summer season.

Hon. MAURICE DUPRE (Acting Minister of Marine) (Translation): I can assure my hon. friend that I shall convey to the Minister of Marine, who will be back in a few days, the request he has just made.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. E. SPENCER (Battle River): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that many soldier settlers are having great difficulty in meeting their payments on account of the very low price of farm products and, that if these are met, they will not have enough to carry on for the new year, I should like to ask the minister whether it is the in-

[Mr. Casgrain.]

tention of the government to force these payments.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour): Since, I believe, November, 1930, after a very thorough investigation of the condition in which soldier settlers in common with many others found themselves, I caused the various superintendents throughout Canada to be circularized by the then board and afterwards by the director, the instructions in substance being that every possible leniency be extended to soldier settlers; that where it appeared that a soldier settler, not through malingering, being able to pay just refused to pay, but through misadventure was unable to make his payments falling due on account of his loan, then in no case should departmental action be taken that would prompt or cause such a settler to leave his homestead. That policy has been consistently followed, is being followed today and will continue to be followed until prices revive and the settlers are in better condition.

ANGUS SHOPS, MONTREAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. MERCIER (Laurier-Outremont): May I ask the Minister of Railways and Canals whether he is aware that any definite steps have been taken prior to today, as to the opening of the Angus Shops in Montreal?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): I know of no such steps.

BRITISH DUTIES ON COPPER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. E. MUNN (Vancouver North): I should like to address a question to the government. I notice by press reports this morning that the British government have suspended for the present the duties on copper in connection with the preference. This, no doubt, will lead to further negotiations. I should like to ask the government if it will not be possible in these negotiations to have the word "smelted," which was deleted, re-inserted in the new agreement?

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): My hon. friend is making statements of fact that, so far as my information goes, are not facts. There was no deletion of any words from anything in connection with the arrangements between Great Britain and Canada. As regards my hon. friend's question, he must know that it cannot be answered categorically at this time. The whole question of this and any other matters