

Department of Public Works, I feel sure the department will do whatever may lie within its power and scope.

#### FISH TRAPS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): I should like permission to ask a question of the Prime Minister. In order to make the question intelligible, I would need to state very briefly the facts upon which the question is based. It will not take me more than two minutes to do so, and it will expedite the business of the house, because otherwise I would feel justified in moving the adjournment of the house to discuss the matter.

There has just finished its sitting in British Columbia a commission which has been considering the advisability of allowing the use of fish traps in northern British Columbia waters. All the fishermen, or to be accurate, 99 per cent of the fishermen in British Columbia generally, irrespective of their location, are bitterly opposed to fish traps as well as to the commission, and I think I am safe in saying that 90 per cent of the population in the vicinity affected, that is, Prince Rupert, irrespective of their occupations, are also bitterly opposed to both propositions. I said that they were against the commission. The reason for that is two-fold. First, they think it is uncalled for, the matter having been already decided, and, second, they object to a commission consisting of only one man. While he is a man of undoubted repute and integrity, they are afraid that in a matter of such importance, the personal views of one commissioner might affect his report. I now come to the question, or rather, the request that I wish to make of the Prime Minister. To be quite definite, I have put it in writing and it is this: whether, before adopting any policy of again allowing the use of fish traps in northern British Columbia waters, he would refer the matter to the house by resolution or otherwise, so that it could be fully discussed.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): In reply to my hon. friend I should like to say that I am only one member of the government, and I should like to have an opportunity to confer with my colleagues on the matter, and give my hon. friend a reply later.

#### REGULATION OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC

##### PAPERS RELATING TO CONVENTION BETWEEN UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. H. CAHAN (St. Lawrence-St. George): I would ask the Prime Minister [Mr. Mackenzie King.]

(Mr. Mackenzie King) whether he can give us any information as to when the correspondence in regard to the convention of 1924 between Great Britain and the United States will be laid before the house. I have seen published in the press what purported to be partial extracts from that correspondence, and I thought that perhaps it had already been officially published in whole or in part so that one could have access to it.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I do not know whether my hon. friend was in the house yesterday when I referred to this matter. I then tabled the correspondence between Great Britain and Canada with reference to the treaty, and I mentioned at the time that the British government had advised us that they regarded the correspondence between the United States and Great Britain as largely confidential. I might say to the hon. member that when that communication was received we drew the attention of the British government to the very fact he has just mentioned, namely, that there had been press reports which would indicate that much of the correspondence had not been regarded as confidential but was already published. Having drawn the attention of the British government to that fact we hope that possibly they may be able to meet my hon. friend's wishes in the matter of having that portion of the correspondence tabled as well, but the decision must rest with the British government.

Mr. CAHAN: In the communications which passed between the Hon. Mr. Massey, representing the Canadian government, and the Secretary of State of the United States, certain quotations were made from the correspondence which had taken place. I wonder if we could have laid on the table of the house the parts of the correspondence which contain those quotations.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall be very pleased to supplement the despatch which we have already sent with an exact quotation of what my hon. friend has just said.

#### PRIVILEGE—Mr. CANTLEY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS CANTLEY (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. Some time ago I asked for information of the Department of National Revenue as follows:

What were the sums refunded by way of 39 per cent rebate of duty on imported coal used by iron and steel makers and/or other industries in each province of Canada during each year since these rebates came into force?