

Food Shortage—Potatoes

months? My second question is, when may I expect an answer, not just an acknowledgment or a stall?

Hon. L. R. LaFLECHE (Minister of National War Services): Mr. Speaker, may I say to my hon. friend that I did write him recently—

Mr. NEILL: On a totally different subject.

Mr. LaFLECHE:—and in my letter I requested the pleasure of discussing matters with him. May I say that the matters about which he put the questions, in the correspondence he mentions, were very largely in a state of flux throughout; and at the present time they are not under the jurisdiction of the Minister of National War Services.

I certainly agree with the hon. member that he should have answers, and I shall do my best to supply them. But I would request the privilege of discussing these matters with him, so that I can help him all the more.

FOOD

INQUIRY AS TO REPORTED SHORTAGE OF
POTATOES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): In view of the fact that there is a shortage of potatoes in some districts in Canada, will the Minister of Agriculture make a statement as to what is being done to remedy the situation?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I shall be in a position to discuss that matter during the course of a day or two.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): The minister gave me that same reply last year in regard to beef, and I waited months for the answer. I hope he will not take as long in this case.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

REPRESENTATION OF FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
ON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question in regard to an announcement appearing in the press that a committee has been set up to formulate plans for post-war reconstruction, on which apparently most of the departments of the government are represented. Will the Prime Minister not go further and consider having a representative on that committee from the Department of Fisheries?

[Mr. Neill.]

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I imagine the committee to which my hon. friend is referring is the economic advisory committee. If that is so it will not be necessary to consider the matter further, as Doctor Finn, the deputy minister of fisheries, has been named a member of that committee.

Mr. REID: That announcement was not made; that was why I asked the question.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I thank my hon. friend for the question.

FINANCIAL MEASURES

PROVISIONS FOR CONTINUED FLOW OF CANADIAN
MUNITIONS AND SUPPLIES TO THEATRES
OF WAR

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make an announcement concerning the business which the government proposes to place before the house in the next few weeks. I have particularly in mind several financial measures which will be provided for in resolutions which will appear on the order paper during the next few days. I think it is most desirable that the house should be made aware at once of the general nature and purpose of these proposals and of their relationship to each other.

The measures to which I refer include the supplementary war appropriation for the current fiscal year, the main war appropriation for the new fiscal year, and the bill to establish a Canadian war supplies allocation board and provide an appropriation for it.

The house will, I am sure, wish to begin the discussion of the war appropriation bills as soon as possible. Hon. members will be given the opportunity to discuss fully Canada's war expenditures, including the record for the current fiscal year as well as the programme proposed for the next year. However, as the war appropriation vote last session is already almost exhausted and we shall be needing almost immediately additional funds to take care of expenditures during the remainder of this month and the month of March, I would like the house to consider the best procedure by which the supplementary war appropriation could be dealt with expeditiously, without limiting in any way the right of the house to make any inquiries which it may desire and debate in full the details of expenditure for the current year.

As was indicated in the speech from the throne, it is the government's intention to