

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES

LAYOFF OF PILOTS AND MECHANICS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. RALPH MAYBANK (Winnipeg South Centre): I also should like to direct a question to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply. Notices in Winnipeg papers on Saturday show a considerable layoff of men from Trans-Canada Air Lines. Has the minister been apprised of this, is he informed upon it, and can he make any statement with regard to it?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): I am aware that Trans-Canada Air Lines, who have been conducting an intensive training programme for pilots and mechanics, felt that they had graduated from that programme more men than were needed immediately. The result is that men were sent home with the understanding that a priority list had been established, and when requirements justify it the men will be recalled. However, the committee on railways and shipping, government-owned, is to meet tomorrow and it will have before it the president and officers of Trans-Canada Air Lines. I would suggest to my hon. friend that more details can be obtained at that time.

COAL

USE OF OIL-DRIVEN LOCOMOTIVES—EFFECT ON MARKET FOR NOVA SCOTIA COAL

On the orders of the day:

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): The hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Black) on Thursday inquired whether steam locomotives on Prince Edward Island were to be replaced by diesel engines. He also asked if large unit diesels are being tested between Montreal and Halifax.

Replying to the first part of the question, the Canadian National Railways inform me that they are taking steps to substitute diesel-electric locomotives for the present steam locomotives on the island division. Apart from the economies which will result, the use of diesel locomotives in place of steam power will relieve the Prince Edward Island car ferry of the transportation of cars carrying coal for locomotive use, but will not materially reduce the number of railway employees on the island. When viewed in relation to the production of Nova Scotia coal generally, the change-over from steam to diesel locomotives will have no effect at the present time as the railway is prepared to accept all the coal offered by maritime mines, and even if in the future the situation should revert to pre-war conditions

the quantity involved could not be more than 1½ per cent of the current coal requirements of the railway from maritime mines.

With regard to the second part of the inquiry, the management of the Canadian National advise that the electro-motive division of General Motors, who are builders of diesel engines, have offered to the railway for a few test runs one of their new diesel electric locomotives. It is therefore proposed to use it on the main line between Toronto, Montreal and Halifax for a few test trips some time in June. Its performance will be carefully watched by the technical officers of the railway without any commitment whatsoever on the part of the railway, and when the test runs have been completed it will be returned to the owners.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): This policy is destroying one of the best local markets we have in Nova Scotia for our coal. It is one more step towards destroying the market—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. CHEVRIER: If the hon. gentleman had listened to the reply he would have seen that no such thing is going to happen.

KING'S COUNSEL

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBER FOR KINDERSLEY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. A. TUCKER (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kindersley (Mr. Jaenicke) has just been created King's Counsel. As a fellow member from Saskatchewan I should like to extend to him, on behalf of the house, congratulations on a well deserved distinction.

RADIO BROADCASTING

REGULATIONS AS TO ENTRY INTO CANADA OF AUTOMOBILES WITH TRANSMITTING SETS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): May I ask the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply a question? Perhaps he will not want to answer it today, but if he can do so, so much the better. In the press recently some reference has been made to the prohibiting of the use of two-way radio telephones which were installed in certain automobiles coming over from the United States to Canada. It is not indicated in the press whether this is serious or whether many automobiles are involved, but perhaps the minister or some member of the government will clarify the situation for the house so that we may know where we stand.