

Questions

Fillmore, received October 19, 1950, investigated October 20, 1950.

Rosthern, received October 21, 1950, investigated October 29, November 3 and November 17, 1950.

Fortune, received November 6, 1950, investigated November 27 and December 1, 1950.

Canora, received November 14, 1950, investigated November 18, 1950.

Lockwood, received November 20, 1950, investigated November 24, 1950.

Alvena, received November 21, 1950, investigated November 28, 1950.

Mikado, received December 11, 1950, investigated December 15-16, 1950, January 5 and February 8, 1951.

Amsterdam, received January 20, 1951, investigated January 20-30, 1951.

This is an increase of four over the number previously reported on page 451 of *Hansard*.

COMMONWEALTH DEFENCE CONFERENCE

Mr. Higgins:

Is there to be a commonwealth defence conference in London in May to discuss (a) Middle East defence; (b) increase in armament production; (c) the guarding of supply lines; (d) Pacific pact?

Mr. Lesage: The government has received no invitation to such a conference.

VISIT OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
TO UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Argue:

1. Did the Minister of Agriculture make a visit to the United Kingdom in February, 1951?

2. If so, what was the purpose or purposes of this visit and what was the result of same?

3. Did the Minister of Agriculture take with him on this visit any official government documents or proposals relating to the purposes of his visit?

4. If so, what was the nature of such documents or proposals?

5. Has the government at any time since June 5, 1950, made any statement contrary to the position taken on that date by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in reference to the final settlement of the "have regard to" clause?

6. If so, in what manner, when, and by whom was any such statement made?

Mr. St. Laurent:

1. Yes.

2. The purpose and the result have already been announced.

3. No.

4. Answered by No. 3.

5. The government has taken the position that while there was no further obligation on the United Kingdom in a legal sense, the United Kingdom authorities should realize that the wheat growers of Canada and most of the community of the prairie provinces

believed there was a continuing obligation under the "have regard to" clause which had not been discharged.

6. Such representations were made by the Prime Minister in January and by the Minister of Agriculture in February, 1951.

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER
FOR RETURN

SARNIA, ONT., PUBLIC BUILDING

Mr. Murphy:

1. Did any department of the government obtain a building on Christiana street, Sarnia, Ontario, within the last year?

2. If so, was it by rental or purchase?

3. If by rental, for what period, and on what rental basis?

4. Did the government deal with or through a realtor either as agent for the government or as agent for the owner?

5. If so, what is the name of the realtor or agent?

CIVIL SERVICE

PROTECTION OF SUPERANNUATION AND SENIORITY
OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on February 27 the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) asked me whether assurances have been given to the men in the public service that if they enlist they will be protected so far as superannuation and seniority are concerned upon their return from war service. I replied that I would take the question as a notice and get the precise information with proper references to the measures effective.

So far as superannuation is concerned, order in council P.C. 5412, of November 8, 1950, passed under the provisions of the Canadian Forces Act, 1950, states in section 6 that:

Subsections 4 and 7 of section 7A of the Civil Service Superannuation Act apply to and in respect of every person who is enrolled for the purpose of serving in the special force, and every officer and man of the reserve forces serving on the strength of the special force, as though his service on the strength of the special force were service in the forces during world war II within the meaning of that act.

The subsections of the Civil Service Superannuation Act referred to provided that when a contributor was absent on leave from the civil service during the second world war, that period would be counted as service for the purpose of computing allowances or gratuities under the Civil Service Superannuation Act, and if a contributor underwent treatment in a hospital operated under the authority of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the period involved should be deemed as one on which he was on full-time active