

5. What quantities, if any, were shipped from this building in army trucks?

6. What quantity is at present on hand, and stored in this building?

7. Who operated this plant for the two years prior to March 31, 1947?

8. Is there an investigation being conducted at the present time regarding material taken from this building?

INCOME TAX—MARRIED WOMEN

Mr. TIMMINS:

How many married women in the Ottawa taxation area paid income tax in 1945 in respect to salaries alone (as contrasted from those who paid income tax on investments), and what was the aggregate of the income tax so paid?

UNITED NATIONS

SPECIAL SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER PALESTINE QUESTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is based on a press dispatch issued from the united nations headquarters at Lake Success yesterday. According to this dispatch a special session of the general assembly of the united nations is to be called for April 28 next to take up the Palestine problem. My questions are two in number: (1) Has Canada been invited to attend this meeting? (2) Will the minister now advise the house of the government's plans with respect to this special united nations meeting, and, so far as it can do so, indicate its policy with respect to the Palestine question?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): To the first question the answer is in the affirmative. The department this morning received a dispatch from Lake Success dated yesterday notifying us that a majority of the members had yesterday concurred in the request of the United Kingdom to summon a special session of the general assembly, and that in accordance with rules 3 and 8 of the provisional rules of procedure of the general assembly the secretary general was notifying us that this special session will open on Monday, April 28, 1947, at eleven a.m. in the general assembly hall, Flushing Meadows, New York City. The provisional agenda of the special session is to be as follows:

1. Opening of the session by the chairman of the Belgian delegation.

2. Election and report of credentials committee.

3. Election of president for the duration of the special session.

4. Organization of session.

5. Adoption of agenda.

All these are, of course, just preliminaries. Then the only real item on the agenda is the following: Constituting and instructing special committee to prepare for consideration of the question of Palestine at second regular session. The Canadian government had previously expressed its acquiescence in the application of the United Kingdom for a special session of the assembly for the limited purpose mentioned in this article of the agenda.

As to the second part of the question asked by the leader of the opposition, the government feel that this special session will not require a delegation comprising cabinet representation, but that it will suffice to have a delegation of officials of the Department of External Affairs. The present plans are to have that small official delegation headed by the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

As to the remainder of the question, asking for an indication of the government's policy with respect to the Palestine question, the government's policy at present is to concur in this application that there be set up a committee to prepare for consideration the question of Palestine at the next general session of the assembly.

Mr. BRACKEN: Would it be correct to say that this meeting which is called for April 28 is more in the nature of a preliminary meeting for the study of this question, the same to be eventually decided at a fuller and larger regular meeting of the general assembly?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Our understanding is that it is to constitute a committee which will gather information which will be available for the purpose of dealing intelligently with the problem at the next regular session of the assembly.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

BRITISH PREFERENTIAL TARIFF—GENEVA CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): I have another question which I should like to direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is with respect to the trade discussions now taking place at Geneva. I am raising this question simply because of the conflicting reports which have gone out from Britain, from here and from the headquarters of the united nations at New York. For instance, Sir Stafford Cripps is