

## FOREST FIRES

## PROPOSED RELIEF FOR SUFFERERS IN TEMISCOUATA, GASPE, BONAVENTURE AND NEW BRUNSWICK

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. C. A. GAUVREAU (Temiscouata): I would like to place before the government what I consider to be a case of urgency. The county of Temiscouata, which I have the honour to represent in this House, is passing through a severe calamity. Bush fires have already swept away more than six villages; churches, homes, barns, implements, cattle and crops are in ashes. I have in my hand a wire which I received last night from the parish of Sully, asking the government for support and relief for the unfortunate settlers in that part of the country. I am told by the press that over six hundred families are without shelter, food or clothing. May I ask the government, may I ask this House, if it is possible to vote forthwith a sum of money for the relief of these settlers? It is true that as yet there is no loss of life, but the loss of property certainly runs into millions of dollars. I appeal to the right hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues to come to the rescue of these poor people who have lost in a few hours all that they had in the world. I appeal especially to the Acting Minister of Defence (Mr. Macdonald) to do as was done for Ontario last year, namely, to send food, clothing and supplies, and especially to send all the tents that are available in order that temporary shelter may be afforded to the settlers, their wives and children, in the devastated area.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I might say to my hon. friend that I received a wire on Saturday night along somewhat similar lines to that which he has received, and immediately I got in touch with the Department of National Defence, and word was sent that the department would be very glad to render assistance such as was rendered in former cases where there has been suffering through fires. It was pointed out, however, that in these matters the federal government has generally proceeded in co-operation with the provincial governments, and it was suggested that the parties affected should immediately communicate with their provincial government, and have the provincial officers communicate with us. The matter will be followed up.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): I would like to support the application made by the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Gauvreau), and as the Prime Minister is in-  
[Mr. Gauvreau.]

quiring into these fires I would point out that great damage to property has been done by fire in other constituencies. I understand that the county of Gaspé, represented by His Honour the Speaker, is suffering in that respect, as well as the county of Bonaventure and other counties in that region. So, if the matter is to be investigated, I hope these constituencies will not be overlooked.

Mr. PIUS MICHAUD (Restigouche and Madawaska): I should like to say a few words on behalf of New Brunswick, one of the smallest provinces of the Dominion, but the one that has practically suffered the most. Conditions there, judging by the morning papers, are very regrettable. A great many families there are without shelter, and, as the hon. member for Temiscouata has said, without food and clothing also. I hope the Prime Minister will take into consideration not only that part of the province of Quebec where assistance is asked at this moment, but also the province of New Brunswick.

## PRIVATE BILLS

## FIRST READING

Bill No. 221 (from the Senate), respecting The Calgary and Fernie Railway Company.—Mr. Hudson.

## SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 207 (from the Senate), for the relief of Abraham Brooks.—Mr. Baxter.

Bill No. 209 (from the Senate), for the relief of Clara Welleena Bristol.—Mr. Duff.

Bill No. 210 (from the Senate), for the relief of Emma Jean Walker.—Mr. Hocken.

Bill No. 211 (from the Senate), for the relief of Ella Maude Gee.—Mr. Church.

Bill No. 212 (from the Senate), for the relief of Enid Louise MacDonald.—Mr. Porter.

Bill No. 213 (from the Senate), for the relief of Mary Theresa MacIsaac.—Mr. German.

## QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

## REGIMENTAL FUNDS

Mr. MAYBEE:

What was the amount of the regimental funds at the end of the war, and what was the disposition of same?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD:

In the case of units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force other than those of a draft producing nature or which had a constantly changing personnel, the regimental, canteen and other funds were, upon the unit being