

Questions

have been called for the rock-fill. The magnitude of this undertaking is better appreciated when it is realized that something like five million cubic yards of rock will have to be quarried, transported and dumped in the building of this rock-fill.

On Tuesday the Department of Transport received nine tenders from various contracting firms, ranging from slightly under \$6 million to almost \$10 million. The tenders submitted have now been carefully examined with a view to prices, equipment to be supplied and quarry location.

The lowest bid submitted was that of Northern Construction and J. W. Stewart Company, Limited, of Vancouver, at the price \$5,786,650. A submission to council authorizing the acceptance of this tender has been approved by the government and immediate steps will be taken to enter into a contract with the successful bidder.

PRIVATE BILL

REFERENCE OF PETITION TO COMMITTEE
ON STANDING ORDERS

Mr. G. T. Fulford (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kingston City (Mr. Henderson):

That the petition for a private bill to incorporate the Ogdensburg bridge authority presented on May 14, 1952, together with the report made thereon by the clerk of petitions on May 15, 1952, be referred to the standing committee on standing orders for such recommendations as may be deemed advisable in relation to standing orders 92 and 93(3) (a) and (c).

Motion agreed to.

FIRST READING—SENATE BILL

Bill No. 225, to incorporate the Hotel Mutual Insurance Company.—Mr. Welbourn.

QUESTIONS

VISCOUNT ALEXANDER—TERM OF OFFICE
AS GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. Pouliot:

1. What was the date of assumption of office of Viscount Alexander of Tunis as governor general of Canada?

2. Was his term extended, and if so, what was the date of the first communiqué announcing the extension of his term of office?

3. Did the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire and Children of the Empire (junior branch) write to the government to suggest or recommend the extension of Viscount Alexander's term of office?

4. If so, was it before or after the communiqué above referred to was issued by the government?

Mr. St. Laurent:

1. Lord Alexander of Tunis was appointed governor general on March 21, 1946. He assumed office on April 12, 1946.

[Mr. Chevrier.]

2. There is no statutory provision or regulation fixing the term of office of the governor general, but the duration of his appointment has usually been for approximately five years. Lord Alexander's term was extended, and the date of the first announcement concerning his extension was October 28, 1950. Lord Alexander's term was again extended in October 1951. The date of that announcement was October 26.

3 and 4. There is no record of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire and Children of the Empire (junior branch) suggesting or recommending the extension of Lord Alexander's term of office, but the national president of the order did, on both occasions on which His Excellency's term was extended, write to the prime minister commending the action of the government in recommending the extension.

NATURAL GAS—SURVEY OF RESOURCES

Mr. Nickle:

1. Have Dr. George S. Hume and Alexis Ignatieff of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys prepared any survey of western Canada's natural gas resources, since publication in July, 1950, by the geological survey of Canada, of their "Natural Gas Reserves of the Prairie Provinces?"

2. Has the government considered the merits of having available a continuing, completely up-to-date detailed survey of natural gas resources of the prairie provinces, plus British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories?

3. If so, would the government instruct Dr. Hume and Mr. Ignatieff to make such a survey without delay, and to revise natural gas reserve estimates from time to time in line with new gas discoveries, and further evaluation of presently known gas areas?

Mr. Prudham: The answer to the first section of the question is no.

In regard to the second and third sections of the question the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys published a joint report by Dr. G. Hume and Mr. A. Ignatieff in July, 1950, on the natural gas reserves of the prairie provinces. This has generally been recognized as a valuable and authoritative report.

It is the intention of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys to issue further reports when possible. A report of this kind entails a great deal of careful research. Such work is complicated by rapid new development and changing conditions. Therefore, I am not able at this time to give a definite commitment as to when the next report will be issued.

UTILIZATION OF BITUMINOUS SANDS

Mr. Nickle:

What progress has been made over the past year by the national research council and by other