

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

1, 1958, a single tariff commonly known as tariff X-212 embodying all the changes in rates thus proposed.

This tariff is filed in both jurisdictions in accordance with the laws applicable. In the case of the filing in Ottawa the tariff will go into effect, provided it is permitted in Washington, on the same date as within the United States. The filing of the tariff as indicated is in accordance with section 333 of the Railway Act. Section 328 of the act empowers the board to disallow, suspend or postpone any tariff so filed either upon complaint or on the board's own motion.

No complaints have reached the board concerning the provisions of this tariff. The board's jurisdiction over international rates is a limited one. To exercise the powers of section 328 without comparable action within the United States could possibly result in the cancellation of the joint international rates and the substitution of much higher total charges for the joint transportation between the two countries by the necessity of paying rates to and from the international border.

**Mr. Argue:** I should like to ask a supplementary question. From the minister's statement am I to take it that in this case the board of transport commissioners is the final court, or does the governor in council have the power under section 53 of the Railway Act to consider postponing the coming into effect of this increase?

**Mr. Hees:** As far as I know the board of transport commissioners is the final authority. However, any consideration of putting aside such an increased tariff by the United States railroads, as I have tried to explain in this statement, would in effect give the United States railroads the right to charge greatly increased rates for goods shipped from the Canadian border into the United States, and nothing would be gained by Canadian shippers or consumers.

[*Later:*]

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It is related to one which has already been asked by the hon. member for Assiniboia. Is it not a fact that under the Railway Act international freight rates are subject to appeal to the governor in council, in the same manner as are horizontal increases?

**Mr. Hees:** As I indicated, I have not been at this job quite as long as the former minister. This is a matter that came to my attention only today. However, my answer still holds good, namely that even if the governor in council decided to set aside this increase

[*Mr. Hees.*]

put into effect by United States railroads, the United States railroads could simply add greatly increased charges on Canadian goods travelling from the border to points in the United States, which would add up to far more than any increased rate in Canada, so nothing would be gained.

## TRADE

OIL, LEAD AND ZINC—INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO PROTECT CANADIAN INTERESTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the government sent a formal note of protest to the United States government concerning their crude oil import restrictions; and is the government contemplating any further action to assist in the marketing of Canadian crude oil? If so, what action is being taken or contemplated?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the finishing touches are being put on the note now and it will probably be on its way within the next few hours. As to further representations, I had discussions on this subject and others with the United States ambassador last Thursday morning prior to his departure for Washington for consultations there.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. A. R. Smith (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I may address a question to the Minister of Finance supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Medicine Hat. In view of the fact that the import committee of the United States will be sitting again to examine their import quotas for 1958, can the house assume that the Canadian government will have senior representation sitting in on those hearings?

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Speaker, the house can assume that the government will do everything in its power to see that the rights of Canada are protected in all respects.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. On Thursday last when the minister met Ambassador Merchant to discuss the problem of oil imports into the United States, did the minister again vigorously protest to the ambassador against the proposed imposition of increased tariffs on lead and zinc entering the United States?