

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure it is unnecessary for me to say to my hon. friend that no member of the house, and least of all myself, would make any reflection upon my hon. friend's veracity.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

QUESTION TO BE EXAMINED BY INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE—INQUIRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA BY BOARD OF REVIEW

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct the attention of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) to a Canadian press dispatch from Vancouver, dated yesterday, to the effect that the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie) had announced in that city that the government intended thoroughly to investigate the Japanese problem in British Columbia. I should like to ask whether or not such is the case, and if so in what manner and to what extent an investigation will be made.

Mr. CHURCH: They will appoint another commission.

Mr. SPENCE: Hear, hear—another commission.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was good enough to intimate to me that he would ask this question. As I indicated on February 17, the government has been investigating the question of surreptitious immigration into Canada, particularly on the Pacific coast. Officials of the interested departments have been considering the matter jointly and the government intends to intensify the investigation and do everything it possibly can to prevent anything in the way of illegal entry. In accordance with the statement made at that time the interdepartmental committee, consisting of representatives of the branches of the service chiefly concerned, namely, immigration, justice, national defence, labour, fisheries, statistics and external affairs, has been instructed to reexamine the whole situation and to report at an early date.

In addition it has been decided to appoint a board of review composed of representatives of immigration and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and external affairs to carry

on an inquiry in British Columbia. The board will not necessarily hold public sittings but will be prepared to receive representations from any persons claiming to have information regarding illegal entry and anyone having such information will be invited to present it to the board. These representations will be immediately investigated. A special detail will be assigned by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to work in collaboration with the board to carry out a thorough check-up. The report of the board of review will be given immediate consideration by the government.

I might add that any persons found to have entered Canada illegally will be deported. On the other hand no person who has been legally admitted to Canada need have any apprehension.

An announcement will be made in due course of the personnel of the board of review.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask whether it has been ascertained, as a result of the investigations that have been made, how many Japanese have entered this country illegally? Perhaps the minister is unable to give an answer at this time, but the question arises out of what has been said.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I would prefer to give an answer to my right hon. friend's question on Monday.

VALIDITY OF QUEBEC STATUTE

QUESTION OF DISALLOWANCE OF "ACT RESPECTING COMMUNISTIC PROPAGANDA"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. PELLETIER (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, is it the intention of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) or the government to refer the so-called Quebec padlock law to the supreme court to determine whether it is *intra* or *ultra vires*?

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): The legislation my hon. friend is referring to is being considered by the Minister of Justice along with the petitions which have been received in relation to it. Whatever the recommendation of the minister may be, it will be submitted to the governor in council.