

members in an effort to do something in connection with the condition at Windsor, and other matters.

TAKING OVER OF BURNS PACKING PLANTS AND  
APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLER—REQUEST  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. FULTON (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. I realize, of course, the great burden of work which has been placed upon his shoulders in the last few days. May I ask, however, if he is in a position to-day to make a statement respecting the strike situation in the meat packing plants of this country?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, may I emphasize this point: We are now passing through a difficult period, and as I have often said before, this is not the place to negotiate trade union agreements. My hon. friend knows as much about it as I do.

Mr. FULTON: No, I do not. I was seeking information.

Mr. MITCHELL: Just a minute; I say my hon. friend knows as much about it as I do. I have had conversations with the packers and with the union. We have a controller in the plants. We have appointed Mr. Justice Richards of Winnipeg to act as a commissioner under the provisions of section 402. I know my hon. friend does not wish to make my task—or, might I say, possibly his task—a little more difficult. Those people are at the moment in charge of the situation; for goodness' sake give them a chance. Do not try to make it difficult for them by asking questions in the house at the present time.

Mr. FULTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. I said that I realized the burden under which the Minister of Labour is working, but I think that in what he has said he has imputed to me motives of which I am not guilty.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. FULTON: I am seeking information as to the situation, and I am not trying to make anybody's position more difficult. If the minister is not in a position to give any information, then I shall be perfectly content with an answer stating that he is not.

Mr. MITCHELL: I have no further information to give. There is no strike in the packing industry.

POSTAL SERVICE

PARCELS TO GREAT BRITAIN—WEIGHT LIMITATIONS

Hon. ERNEST BERTRAND (Postmaster General): I wish to make a statement in connection with the rates and weight limits of parcels being sent to England and on the continent.

In the course of the past few weeks, I have answered questions on the subject. Letters in regard thereto have been received by some of my colleagues and myself, and open letters, which unfortunately did not put facts in their true light, have been sent to newspapers. It is hoped that this further statement will clear up the matter.

Shortly after the end of the war in Europe attempts were made to restore mail service, particularly parcel post services to European countries, and it has been found possible to resume the mail service for correspondence to most places, but the parcel post services are another matter and they have presented many difficulties arising out of factors entirely out of Canadian postal authorities' control.

As the house knows, shipping facilities are not always of the best, and the question of the ability of the country of destination to provide delivery has been found to be the main difficulty. We have been successful in resuming the parcel post services to England (up to a weight limit of five pounds), to Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland up to eleven pounds, and to Italy and the Vatican City state up to four pounds for gift parcels containing food, drugs, toilet articles and used clothing.

This has required constant effort, as in all cases, with the exception of one, the Netherlands, our parcel post services are at present operating through Great Britain, who are sorely pressed as regards staff and accommodation but have been most cooperative in assisting us to the greatest degree possible. The shipping situation from the United Kingdom also comes into the picture, but we are sure they are placing all facilities possible at our disposal. The fact that England has set a weight limit of five pounds and is transmitting parcels to the continent up to a weight limit of eleven pounds shows her willingness to help devastated countries.

As regards the question of parcel post rates, the parcel post service to the Netherlands, which I previously stated operates on the direct route without going through England, is, of course, the cheapest service. On all eleven pound parcels to the Netherlands, the rate is \$1.60; to France it is \$2.25; to Switzerland \$2.10; to Belgium \$2.05, and to Sweden \$2.60.