

Questions

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY—FREIGHT RATES FROM CHURCHILL AND HALIFAX

Mr. KNIGHT:

1. Have freight rates over the Hudson Bay railroad on commodities other than grain been raised during the recent year?
2. If so (a) why; (b) how much; (c) in what respects?

Mr. KNIGHT:

1. Were recent reports correct in stating that ocean freight charges between Churchill and British ports had been reduced?
2. If so, what was the amount of the reduction?
3. What is the ocean freight rate on a thousand feet of lumber (ship load quantities) (a) from Churchill to a British port; (b) from Halifax to the same port?

Mr. CHEVRIER: In view of the fact that I answered these two questions during consideration of the estimates of my department the other evening, I wonder if the hon. member would be willing to drop them.

Mr. KNIGHT: I agree with the minister in regard to the first question but not in regard to the second one, which as a matter of fact asks something quite outside of his department.

Mr. CHEVRIER: As far as that question is concerned the hon. gentleman can get the information just as quickly and as easily as I can, because I would have to get it from the shipping companies. I think the purpose of placing questions on the order paper is to obtain information which an hon. member cannot get elsewhere.

Mr. KNIGHT: The purpose of the question, as far as I am concerned, is that the answer may become a matter of public record. That is why it was placed on the order paper.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am not in a position to give the answer, because I have not the information, and neither has the government. I would have to obtain it from the ocean steamship companies, and I suggest that my hon. friend can get it from them as well as I could.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions dropped.

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCTION—PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Mr. MENARY:

What percentage was private capital investment of the gross national production in Canada for each of the years 1945, 1946, and 1947?

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Mr. McILRAITH: The following table shows the percentage which gross private capital investment was of gross national product in Canada, for 1945, 1946, and 1947:

Gross domestic investment	Percentage of gross national product		
	1945	1946	1947
New housing*	1.8	2.9	3.5
New construction (except housing) and new machinery and equipment†	5.6	8.5	12.0
Investment in inventories	-2.5‡	3.3	5.9
Total	4.9	14.7	21.4

*Does not include construction by Wartime Housing Limited.

†Includes investment by private business and publicly owned public utilities.

‡The value of inventories declined in this year.

MINING—NEW INVESTMENT IN DURABLE PHYSICAL ASSETS

Mr. MENARY:

What is the estimated new investment for mining in Canada for the year 1948 in durable physical assets excluding, if any, direct government investment, and what was the actual, or if not yet available, estimated actual for the years 1945, 1946, and 1947?

Mr. McILRAITH: Estimated expenditures on new investment by the mining industry in Canada in durable physical assets excluding any direct government investment:

1945	\$16.7 million
1946	33.6 million
1947	66.3 million
1948	76.6 million (forecast)

POSTAL SERVICE—SALARIES OF LETTER CARRIERS

Mr. LOCKHART:

1. What was the schedule of salaries paid to letter carriers in 1938?
2. What increases in salaries have been granted such persons since 1938?
3. What steps are being taken at the present time to increase salaries of letter carriers?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier):

1. \$1,020-\$1,140-\$1,260-\$1,380-\$1,500.
2. The effective dates of the increases and the increased salaries paid were as follows:
 - 1st July, 1944—\$1,200-\$1,320-\$1,440-\$1,560-\$1,620 plus cost of living bonus.
 - 1st April, 1946—\$1,320-\$1,440-\$1,560-\$1,680-\$1,800 plus cost of living bonus.