

Canadian National Railways the only action open to the minister is to transmit the representations to the management of the railways. The reply made to the letter stated that the representations had been carefully noted but that as the subject was one for the Canadian National Railways the communication had been immediately referred to the management.

***CLAIMANTS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Question No. 313—Mr. Deschatelets:

What is the latest figure available of the total number of claimants receiving unemployment benefits?

Mr. Thrasher: The number of persons claiming benefit as at 31st January, 1962, was 698,538.

GIFT OF CARGO SHIPS TO WEST INDIES

Question No. 314—Mr. Fisher:

1. What was the total cost of each of the two new passenger cargo ships, a gift from the government of Canada, which are to be placed in service by the West Indies Shipping Corporation, Port of Spain, Trinidad?
2. When were the gifts delivered?

Answer by: Mr. Diefenbaker:

1. M.V. *Federal Maple*, \$3,179,383.61; M.V. *Federal Palm*, \$2,654,866.35.
2. M.V. *Federal Maple*, August 4, 1961; M.V. *Federal Palm*, September 1, 1961.

***WHEAT BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Question No. 315—Mr. Boulanger:

1. How many members sit on the Canadian wheat board?
2. Which provinces do such members respectively represent?
3. How many vacancies have occurred since 1957?
4. Give the name, address and qualifications of those appointed to fill such vacancies.

Mr. Jorgenson: The answer is as follows:

1. Four.
2. Commissioners of the Canadian wheat board do not represent individual provinces. The Canadian Wheat Board Act defines the object of the board as the "marketing in an orderly manner, in interprovincial and export trade, of grain grown in Canada". In carrying out this function the board undertakes to market on behalf of producers wheat, oats and barley grown in the designated area of western Canada and offered by producers for sale.
3. The Canadian Wheat Board Act provides for the appointment by the governor in council of not less than three nor more than five commissioners. At no time have there been five commissioners serving on the board. Since 1957 there have been two resignations and two appointments.

Order for Return

4. Mr. J. T. Dallas was appointed a commissioner September 1, 1958 and resigned December 31, 1960. Mr. J. B. Lawrie was appointed a commissioner December 22, 1961. Prior to their appointments Mr. Dallas was executive vice president of the Continental Grain Company, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Mr. Lawrie was European manager of the Canadian wheat board, London, England. Both these gentlemen, because of their successful association over many years with the Canadian grain trade in executive capacities, were eminently qualified to assume the responsibilities of commissioners of the Canadian wheat board.

***CHIGNECTO CANAL COMMITTEE MEETING WITH CABINET**

Question No. 323—Mr. McWilliam:

Has the Prime Minister received a request for a meeting between himself, other members of the cabinet, and the Chignecto canal committee; and, if so, has a time and place been set for this meeting?

Mr. Diefenbaker: This subject has been discussed, but no definite date has been fixed for a meeting with the Chignecto canal committee. The hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Coates) is the chairman of the Chignecto canal committee of the maritime provinces and has discussed the matter with me and with other members of the cabinet. Today Brigadier Wardell of Fredericton, who has taken a great interest in this matter, is in Ottawa, and I hope later today to see him.

***ROADS TO RESOURCES GRANTS, ONTARIO**

Question No. 333—Mr. Benidickson:

1. Did the government of Ontario, between January 1, 1961 and March 12, 1962, ask the federal government to provide, under the "roads to resources" agreement, dated December 22, 1959, for the fiscal year March 31, 1962 to March 31, 1963, an amount greater than \$750,000 as referred to in clause 4(1)(d) of the said agreement?
2. If so, (a) what amounts of 'matching grant' for 1962-63 was requested, and, (b) what maximum amount has the federal government agreed to provide?

Mr. Dinsdale: The answer is as follows:

1. No.
2. Not applicable.

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

***AMOS-MATTAGAMI HIGHWAY, QUEBEC**

Question No. 316—Mr. Martel:

1. Were public tenders called in connection with the construction under the "roads to resources program", of a culvert near mile No. 9 on the Amos-Mattagami highway; and, if so, on what date were tenders called, and in what newspapers, giving dates of publication, were the notices published; if not, in what manner was the contract allocated?