

Japanese Immigration

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

WORK OF INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE—
INQUIRY AS TO REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. C. GREEN (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) concerning the interdepartmental committee appointed about a year ago to investigate thoroughly the Japanese problem in British Columbia. I am of course not referring to the board of review appointed to look into the question of illegal entry.

A press dispatch from Ottawa contained in the Vancouver *Province*, reaching Ottawa over the week-end, after setting out that there has been the greatest secrecy about this inquiry, states that the results of the inquiry may never be made public. I should like to know whether or not the report of this interdepartmental committee will be made public and, if so, when it may be expected? I would point out that on March 4, 1938, the Prime Minister stated the committee had been instructed to report at an early date.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: That would be a proper question to put on the order paper.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my recollection at the moment is that the interdepartmental committee which, as the hon. member has just said, was constituted prior to the board of review, did make a report to the government, which was intended to be in the nature of a confidential report to guide the government in action which might subsequently be necessary. The action the government thought advisable was the appointment of a board of review, on which there were several representatives.

The board made a very full inquiry. Its report has been printed and tabled in the house. It may be that I am in error in saying that there is no public report of the interdepartmental committee; if I am incorrect in that statement I shall be glad to correct it at another time. However my recollection is that the only report which the government intended to make public is the report of the board of review.

Mr. GREEN: Then there will be no report from the interdepartmental committee?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If the facts are as just stated, I believe that to be so.

SEED GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSED MEASURES FOR SUPPLY-
ING OF SEED IN WESTERN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Mr. Speaker, has the Saskatchewan government made application to the federal government for assistance in financing relief seed for the farmers this spring? If so, on what date; and when may we expect legislation to implement this request?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as to the last part of the hon. member's question, namely that part in which he asks when he may expect legislation, I am afraid the only reply I can give is that the government cannot be expected to make a detailed announcement in advance as to its entire program of legislation.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Then, what about the first part of my question? Has any application been received from Saskatchewan?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That part had better stand as a notice of question on the order paper.

BREN MACHINE GUN CONTRACT

INQUIRY AS TO ACTIVITIES OF MAJOR HAHN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. G. MacNEIL (Vancouver North): Mr. Speaker, so that there may be no misunderstanding as to the accuracy of the records of this house in further references to the matter in the press, I desire to direct three questions to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie).

First, will the minister explain his statement of July 1, 1938, as it appears at page 4524 of *Hansard*, to the effect that he never met Major Hahn prior to the execution of the contract with the John Inglis Company—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Let him go on.

Mr. MacNEIL:—March, 1938, in view of his subsequent admission that he met Major Hahn in 1936?

Second, will the minister explain whether Major Hahn acted as the representative of the Canadian government during 1937 with reference to the Bren gun negotiations, and if Major Hahn received reimbursement for his expenses while abroad during 1937?