

Mr. Brooks: Mr. Speaker, a return has already been made saying that there is nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Dropped.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS, B.C.—SALE

Mr. Fulton:

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams and memoranda exchanged between the government, the department or Minister of Transport, or any other official or agent of the government on the one hand, and (a) the British Columbia Telephone Company; (b) the Canadian National Telegraph Company, on the other hand, regarding the sale to the telephone company and the telegraph company respectively of the government telegraph and telephone system in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Mr. Chevrier: I had understood from the hon. gentleman that if he were to receive certain information in answer to questions that he put on the order paper earlier he would be disposed to withdraw this notice of motion. On December 23 I sent the hon. member a letter which I hoped would answer his questions or at least those that we were in a position to answer in the department at that time. I am just wondering if he has had an opportunity to consider that letter.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps I should express regret to the minister for not having discussed this matter with him earlier today, but I did not have an opportunity to do so. I do recall that there was something along the lines of what he has stated to the house, but I was a little surprised to receive answers to my questions in the form of a letter instead of having them answered so that the record might be available either in *Votes and Proceedings* or in *Hansard*. It is that point which I should like to consider before following up this matter any further. Therefore, by leave of the house, I wonder if at this stage I might ask that the motion stand.

Mr. Chevrier: That is quite satisfactory.

Mr. Speaker: Motion stands.

FLOOD DAMAGES, MANITOBA—ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Zaplitny:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, memoranda and other communications exchanged between the Department of Agriculture and/or any branch thereof and Mr. W. J. Ward, of Dauphin, Manitoba, from July 1, 1953 to date, referring to prairie farm assistance and/or emergency assistance to farmers who have suffered flood damages in Manitoba.

The Ministry

THE MINISTRY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF HON. W. ROSS MACDONALD AS SOLICITOR GENERAL

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): We are now passing to what in reality, on a private members' day, constitutes the orders of the day, so I wonder if I might have the unanimous consent of the house to make a short statement about an administrative change in the government.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. St. Laurent: Since my colleague, Hon. Ralph Campney, was appointed associate defence minister he has found that the discharge of his duties as such has left him very little time to assist the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) as Solicitor General. He has asked to be relieved of the responsibilities of the office of Solicitor General. His resignation has been accepted and His Excellency the Governor General has approved the recommendation that Hon. W. Ross Macdonald be appointed Solicitor General and assume the duties of that office in addition to his present duties as member of the government without portfolio and as leader of the government in the Senate. I should like to lay on the table of the house a copy of the appropriate order in council to that effect which was passed yesterday.

BRIDGES

VICTORIA AND JACQUES CARTIER—PROPOSED ABOLITION OF TOLLS

Mr. Hector Dupuis (St. Mary) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should consider the advisability of entering into negotiations with the government of the province of Quebec for the purpose of reaching a mutual agreement for the abolition of tolls on the Jacques Cartier and Victoria bridges.

(Translation):

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time the subject matter of this motion has been brought before the house. As early as 1946, my hon. friend, the member for Chambly-Rouville (Mr. Pinard) placed on the order paper a motion along the same lines. He renewed his attempt several times but in spite of all his efforts and his well known talent no progress has been made. I myself have repeatedly asked that we grant the requests of the citizens of the province of Quebec and especially those of the city of Montreal and of the municipalities and towns of the south shore of the St. Lawrence who, for many years, have been calling for the abolition of tolls on the Jacques Cartier and Victoria bridges.