

government or authority recognized either by the Canadian government or by others of the united nations as entitled to speak as the representative of the French state. The enemy occupation of a substantial part of France is not recognized in any way, neither is any puppet government which is in fact subject to enemy domination. At the same time we must all hope that in the not too distant future there will again be a French government which can be recognized by the governments of the united nations as entitled to speak for France. It will then be possible to hand over to such a government the property of the French state in Canada. In the meantime, the Canadian government regards itself as in a position analogous to that of the *negotiorum gestor* under the principles of French civil law. The application of such principles to the present position would justify the Canadian government in taking measures for the preservation of the property of France and for the discharge of clearly established obligations in Canada of the French state out of French property. These principles would require the government to exercise the utmost good faith in a position closely analogous to that of a trustee under the common law.

I am tabling the following documents which, for the convenience of the members of the house, might be printed in the *Votes and Proceedings*:

(1) A statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, November 9, 1942.

(2) Letter from the Secretary of State for External Affairs to M. Ristelhueber, November 11, 1942.

(3) Letter from the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Capital Trust Corporation Limited, January 22, 1943.

(4) Letter from the Capital Trust Corporation Limited to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, January 26, 1943.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): I have only a word or two to say with respect to the statement which the Prime Minister has just read. One is this. I fancy that most members of the house will be anxious that the Prime Minister give some indication as to where M. Ristelhueber is now, if that is not an embarrassing question with respect to the relations of this government with M. Ristelhueber. Another point that occurs to me offhand is this. Are these steps which are contemplated similar in all respects to the steps taken by the United Kingdom government under similar circumstances?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: With regard to M. Ristelhueber, he is residing in Ottawa, [Mr. Mackenzie King.]

though not at the legation, and as a means of enabling him to continue to live he receives as a temporary arrangement, moneys out of French funds that are in the hands of our custodian, to pay the customary salary which he had been receiving. I am informed that both M. Ristelhueber and members of his staff have offered their services to General Giraud, but beyond that I have no further information. As to the second question, the situation which arose in Canada had not been paralleled in any other country, so far as I am aware, at any other time. So far as the British government is concerned, France was an ally of Britain from the beginning of the war. When the British embassy was closed it was because every one of its occupants had left France and relations were completely severed. The British embassy in France was placed under a protecting power, first, the United States, later, Switzerland. Our termination of relations took place at a time when, in our view at least, no independent government continued to exist in France.

Mr. GRAYDON: Has there been any French government that has been officially recognized in recent times by the United Kingdom?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There has not been a United Kingdom ambassador in France for some considerable time past.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): May I ask the Prime Minister what liaison is maintained between the Canadian government and the fighting French organization in London under General de Gaulle?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to have that question stand as notice, to be answered later.

FUEL

SHORTAGE OF COAL—MEASURES TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Yesterday I directed an inquiry to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) seeking information as to any steps the government had in contemplation to meet the serious fuel shortage in Canada, and the right hon. gentleman was good enough to inform the house that he expected that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley) would have an announcement for us this afternoon. I should be very glad to hear that announcement if the Minister of Finance is in a position to make it now.

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): This matter was raised by a question which the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr.