

we will have to brace up our courage to meet it.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE (Simcoe North): Might I ask that question No. 12 standing in my name be treated as an order for return?

Mr. D. D. MCKENZIE (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Might I suggest to the leader of the Government that if he would consent to make all the questions now remaining on the Order Paper orders for returns, then the work of gathering the information could proceed and the results could be sent to hon. members in due course. It would not involve any more labour to answer those questions as orders for returns, and it would save the necessity of again placing them on the Order Paper next session.

Mr. DOHERTY: I have no substantial objection to adopting my hon. friend's suggestion if any useful purpose will be served; but it does seem to me that all practical purposes will be served if answers are sent to the members who ask the questions, and I have no objection to undertake to request my colleagues who are concerned to see that that is done, and I will also undertake to do so in respect to my own department.

Mr. F. S. CAHILL: Sometimes other members are interested in the questions.

Mr. DOHERTY: If an hon. member receives an answer he can give it to the public.

Mr. SPEAKER: Of course, we have passed the stage when orders for returns can be had, but it seems to me that at this period of the session there can be no objection to our facilitating hon. members as much as possible. The hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Currie) requests that question No. 12 be passed as an order for return. It will be so entered in the record.

Mr. W. L. MACKENZIE KING: It is understood that answers will be sent to the members in whose names the questions stand?

Mr. DOHERTY: That will be done as far as possible.

PURCHASING OF SUPPLIES.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. JOHN HAROLD (Brant): May I ask what is the policy of the Government in connection with the purchasing of supplies? Do they purpose to continue such purchases—
[Mr. Doherty.]

ing through the War Purchasing Commission? And is it the intention to bring in a Bill similar to that dropped last session, to consolidate the purchasing?

Mr. DOHERTY: The purchasing at the present time is being carried on through the Purchasing Commission. As to the question of bringing in a Bill next session, that would depend upon whether legislation be considered necessary in order to continue the present system. I cannot give any decided answer as to what action may be taken in that regard.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate:

That a special committee of the Senate composed of the Honourable Sir James Lougheed, the Honourable Messieurs Bostock, Ross (Middleton) and Belcourt, be appointed for the purpose of conferring with the Honourable Members of the House of Commons in order that all Bills which purport to amend any Act of Parliament upon being submitted for first reading shall have printed therein in full and in italics, in English and French, the section or sections purported to be amended.

DATE OF NEXT SESSION.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. F. L. DAVIS (Neepawa): May I ask the Government if they can give us any information as to when the next session will be called? I understand a round robin was signed by hon. members, and rumours are circulating, that the next session may open in January or March.

Mr. DOHERTY: It would be quite impossible at the present time to announce when the next session would be called. We cannot judge what the requirements of the future will be.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: Not before the New Year.

Mr. CAHILL: Does the Government intend to buy any more railways?

Mr. JEAN J. DENIS (Joliette): While on this subject, may I ask the Government if they realize the great inconvenience of having the House of Commons in session during the summer, and if they are making it a point to avoid that as much as possible in the future?

Mr. DOHERTY: The Government fully realizes the inconvenience, and shares, I have no doubt, the general desire to avoid inconvenience whenever possible.