

tion, and that that undertaking was given by international agreement. An undertaking of that kind, one so manifestly unjustifiable, certainly should not bind Canada in these times. Therefore, notwithstanding that commitment of Canada, I urge the minister to go forward and to develop the beet sugar industry in Canada while yet there is time.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Mr. Chairman, I have been deeply interested in the observations of the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore). In view of the minister's statement to the effect that Canada produces about fifteen per cent of her sugar consumption, I believe the suggestions of the hon. member for Lethbridge might well be considered. One of my constituents living near Hudson Bay Junction lived for a number of years in a section of France where large quantities of sugar beets are grown, and while in western Canada he has carried on a series of experiments with seed imported from various countries of Europe. It is his considered opinion that the soil and climatic conditions in northern Saskatchewan would be conducive to the successful production of sugar beets. In view of the changes now being made in our national economy it seems to me the minister might find it worth his while to consider the increased production of this crop.

Could the minister give the committee any information respecting the cost of installing the necessary equipment for the refining of sugar beets? It was said last night that the sugar beet industry is carried on successfully in areas where favourable freight rates could be obtained.

Mr. GARDINER: I am not in a position to give exact figures, but from the point of view of capital expenditure the cost is enormous.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): A million dollars.

Mr. GARDINER: The Manitoba government voted \$600,000 to encourage the production of sugar but that was by way of a guarantee and was not the total cost. I should imagine an expenditure of a million dollars would be required to install a plant of the type mentioned.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Plus working capital.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Between a million and a million and a quarter.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

At six o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

[Mr. Blackmore.]

Thursday, June 27, 1940

The house met at three o'clock.

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. J. P. HOWDEN (St. Boniface) presented the first report of the standing committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUSPENSION OF ORDER FOR PRECEDENCE OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PRIVATE BILLS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there were on the order paper last Monday six private bills dealing with incorporations and amending charters. They deal with the proposed Alberta Bank, the Pool Insurance, the Stanstead and Sherbrooke Insurance Company, the Ottawa Electric Company and the Ottawa Gas Company, the Detroit and Windsor Subway Company, and the Cedars Rapids Manufacturing and Power Company. The promoters of these bills have gone to the expense of advertising and paying the fee required by the House of Commons. Some of them have also hired solicitors who are ready to act as parliamentary agents before our committees when these bills are under consideration. The notices required under our rules have been given in the newspapers and the *Canada Gazette*. All this will be lost if the bills are not proceeded with during the present session. They are debarred by the order passed in the house on the May 21, 1940, but it would be an easy matter to take them up now, which can be done by the adoption of the following resolution:

That the order of the 21st May, 1940, appointing the order of business of the house for the present session be suspended with regard to such private bills as have already been introduced in the house.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Does that apply to the divorce proceedings?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have no objection at all. I regard the suggestion as a good one; it is one which had occurred to me when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) was taking away all the rights relating to private members—