

V. Improvement of Roads in New Brunswick.

The Minister of National Defence called attention to the fact that certain New Brunswick roads were quite inadequate for military purposes in case of raid or attack. This was particularly true as regards the road between Bathurst and Newcastle - a fifty-mile stretch through the woods which formed part of the main stretch from Riviere du Loup to Moncton. A project for the improvement of the roads on a considerable scale, involving some four and a half million dollars, had been discussed with Premier McNair, but was considered too extensive. The Minister of National Defence recommended that a moderate sum, approximately \$100,000, might be spent on the road section between Bathurst and Newcastle. A question was raised by other members, particularly the Minister of Munitions and Supply as to the dangerous precedent involved in undertaking to build or repair provincial roads, but it was considered there were special grounds in this case in view of the fact that the roads and particularly the bridges were not sufficient to carry military vehicles required for defence in a vital area. It was therefore agreed that the Minister of National Defence might proceed on the lines he had suggested, in his discussions with Mr. McNair the following day.

VI. Control of Firearms.

The Minister of National Defence raised the question whether firearms in the possession of private citizens should be taken over by the Government, or at least registered; or in any case whether stocks of such arms and stores should be taken over, both as a means of security and to ensure a reserve for training purposes.

The Prime Minister said that Mr. McGeer had spoken to him of his great concern about the Japanese situation in British Columbia, and was drafting a bill, apparently at the request of the Attorney General of British Columbia, which would authorize the Attorney General in any province to take over arms. The Minister of National Defence for Air said that Defence officials had been of the opinion that farmers in outlying districts should be allowed to retain their arms for protection and hunting purposes. There was some discussion as to whether it would be possible to apply the law in some provinces only or in some areas only of each province. A good deal of apprehension was indicated as to the danger of firearms and explosives being in the hands of Japanese residents. It was pointed out that the Criminal Code at present required aliens to have permits for firearms, and the view was expressed that such action might