

War Services. Do we understand that this department is now obsolete? If so, I would point out that there were certain branches that came under that department—I refer to the national film board and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Under what department do they now come?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The department of war services remains under the Minister of National War Services until this parliament repeals the act establishing the department. The department will be abolished by a bill to be introduced into this house this session, and which, I presume, will be passed by both houses. Until that time the several agencies that are now under the war services department will remain there unless transferred under the transfer of duties act to some other department. If and when they are transferred the house will be advised, as I have advised it to-day with respect to some other transfers of governmental functions.

#### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

##### EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN 1919 STRIKE—REQUEST FOR ROYAL COMMISSION ON PENSION RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I wish to direct to the Prime Minister a question, notice of which I sent him earlier to-day. What consideration has been given to the request from the heads of a number of railroad unions for the establishment of a royal commission to investigate the matter of the reinstatement of the pension rights of Canadian Pacific employees who were involved in the general strike at Winnipeg in 1919? The Prime Minister indicated at the close of the last session that consideration would be given to this request. Can he now state whether the commission is to be established?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): My hon. friend inquired about this matter in April last. I am informed by the Department of Labour that one of its senior officials has been appointed to explore the situation. The official has been seeing the organizations concerned and has made an interim report to the department. He has indicated that he wishes to proceed further with his investigation. That is all the information I can give at the moment.

[Mr. Abbott.]

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### SALE OF CROWN PLANTS—HONOURING OF UNION AGREEMENTS OF REEMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ALISTAIR STEWART (Winnipeg North): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Reconstruction. Is it the policy of the government, as a condition of sale for crown plants, that union agreements at present in effect be honoured so that employees will be rehired on the basis of seniority?

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction): Such a policy is obviously impossible of general application. For example, a plant which to-day is engaged in the electrical industry may be sold for a totally different industry which would qualify it for a union covered by another trade. There is no general application of such a policy where a plant is sold for continuance in the same industry. Indication is given to the buyer that we should be glad to see him adopt the same union and follow the same seniority practice as was followed by the previous owner, but that is not made a condition of the sale.

#### HOGS

##### PRODUCTION IN WESTERN CANADA TO MEET SHORTAGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. CASTLEDEN (Yorkton): May I ask the Minister of Agriculture what steps are being taken to restore hog production in western Canada in order to meet the present shortage situation in Canada and in the devastated countries?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): The question as submitted to me deals with all Canada. I presume the hon. member for Yorkton refers to all Canada, although he said western Canada—

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I so stated in the question.

Mr. GARDINER: He asks what steps are being taken to restore hog production in Canada to meet the present emergent shortage of meat in Canada and in the devastated countries. There is no shortage of meat in Canada. We have a very great surplus of meat in Canada. There is only one year in our history when we had a greater surplus than in 1945, and that was 1944, so that it is scarcely correct to say that there is an emer-