

leave, special leave and probably holidays with pay for the char women in the federal service. The statement will take in women working not only in Ottawa but also all over the country.

FEED GRAIN

CAR LOADINGS FOR MARITIME PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. BROOKS (Royal): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, based on a telegram from the secretary of the maritime federation of agriculture in which he states that feed grain shortage in the maritimes is approaching or in a critical stage and that quick corrective action is urgently needed. What arrangements is the government making to provide more car loadings of feed grain for the maritime provinces, and if arrangements are being made will they be put into effect at once?

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): The question which my hon. friend asks is one which forms part of a much larger question. The situation with reference to empty box cars in Canada is at the moment very acute, and the transport controller, in conjunction with the railways of Canada, is meeting it from day to day. My hon. friend makes particular reference to the feed grain loadings for the maritimes, and I would say this to him. On Friday of last week the transport controller met with other bodies who are extremely interested in the subject and arrived at a conclusion whereby some 112 cars daily can be provided for feed at the lake head and at the bay ports. It is thought that if that provision of empty box cars can be made, the situation will be well in hand. I assure my hon. friend, however, that both the railways and the transport controller are giving this question their keen attention.

Mr. BROOKS: Are any of these 112 cars assigned to take feed grain to the maritimes?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Yes. The maritimes have a specific proportion. From information I have received from the national harbours board, the position in the maritime provinces at the moment in connection with loadings is fairly good.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. PEARKES (Nanaimo): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Will he say if and when Canada will

be ready to take over the second aircraft carrier which according to press reports is now available?

Hon. BROOKE CLAXTON (Minister of National Defence): The hon. gentleman was good enough to give me notice of the question. His question no doubt refers to the aircraft carrier in course of construction which has been known by the name of *Magnificent*. It will not be ready for a good many months. Arrangements were made during the war by which two light fleet carriers would be made available to Canada, and the *Warrior* is now in commission, the *Magnificent* being the other. I should add that the composition and employment of the naval and armed forces of Canada are under continuous consideration but it has never been and is not the intention of the government that two carriers should be kept continuously in operation.

Mr. F. E. LENNARD (Wentworth): May I ask the minister a further question? Is the aircraft carrier H.M.C.S. *Warrior* on loan, or has it been bought outright from the British government?

Mr. CLAXTON: It is on loan.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

CAR FERRY "ABEGWEIT"—PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. CHESTER S. McLURE (Queens): I desire to direct an important annual question to the Minister of Transport. How is construction work on S.S. *Abegweit* progressing, and when will she be on the Borden-Tormentine ferry service?

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): I may tell the hon. gentleman that construction of the *Abegweit* is progressing very satisfactorily, and from reports which I have I am hopeful that she will be put into operation not long after navigation opens.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

PENSION RIGHTS OF STRIKING EMPLOYEES OF 1919

On the orders of the day:

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to direct a question either to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of Labour. Have any steps been taken to implement the Johnstone report of December 7, 1945, on the C.P.R. 1919 pension dispute? I refer in particular to Mr. Johnstone's definite recommendation to the government that a royal commission be established in connection with this matter.