

Inquiries of the Ministry

that did tender, who was the successful tenderer and what was the amount, and what were the amounts of the tenders of all others who tendered?

Return tabled.

LEVEL CROSSINGS, COMPTON-FRONTENAC
CONSTITUENCY

Question No. 1,144—Mr. Latulippe:

1. How many level crossings are there in Compton-Frontenac?
2. How many accidents have occurred at these crossings in the last five years?
3. Where did each such accident occur?
4. In each case, what was the number of persons killed, seriously injured, slightly injured, and what was the amount of material damage?
5. How many signal lights have been installed in Compton-Frontenac in the last five years?
6. What is the number of signal lights in Compton-Frontenac, and where is each located?

Return tabled.

* H.M.C.S. "BONAVENTURE"

Question No. 1,169—Mr. Fisher:

1. Does the government plan to modernize the aircraft carrier H.M.C.S. *Bonaventure* within the next two years and, if so, what is the estimated cost of the modernization?
2. In the time interval before a complete modernization, is there any intention to spend any money in rectifying present defects in the ship or to reduce the maintenance backlog or to prepare specifications for the modernization and, if so, what is the estimate for these expenditures?
3. How long will the *Bonaventure* be out of service in the interval before modernization begins?
4. Has there been any shortage in personnel on the H.M.C.S. *Bonaventure* in the past two years in so far as the establishment for technicians is concerned and, if so, what are the details?
5. What has been the repair and maintenance cost of the *Bonaventure*, year by year, since its acquisition by the R.C.N.?
6. What is the estimated service life of the *Bonaventure*?

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TRADE

WHEAT—POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN SALES TO
RUSSIA

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It is related to a news dispatch in today's *New York Times* from the correspondent in Moscow to the effect that prospects of a normal wheat crop in the Soviet union will result in no further purchases being made, except for nominal amounts, of Canadian wheat in the coming year. Can the minister say whether he has any information in this regard and whether there is any

basis, which I hope there is not, for the article in question?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the position is that the Russian government are not at all clear, so early in the season, as to their ultimate supply position and are awaiting clarification before deciding whether they will buy wheat from any part of the world.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Can the minister say whether there has been any indication to Canada that there now is uncertainty in this regard on the part of the Russian government?

Mr. Sharp: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would just say that there has never been anything but uncertainty in this regard, and no one has said anything else. The Russian government have made it quite clear that they would declare their intention to purchase next year after they had seen what crop prospects were like for the coming year.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Has there been any indication to the Canadian government from the Russian government to the effect that, on the basis of anticipated returns at the present time, there is a possibility of a great reduction in the amount of Canadian purchases?

Mr. Sharp: The Canadian wheat board have been in constant communication with the Soviet government in connection with possible wheat purchases, and when the Russian government makes its decision it will communicate with the wheat board.

GATT—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, of which I have not given him notice. I understand the conference in Geneva is breaking up tomorrow. Could the minister give us any information as to the reconciliation of the viewpoints of the have-not countries and the have countries, which is so important to trade negotiations?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I had an oral report from my officials this morning, which was rather incomplete. I would prefer to await the written report, and then I think