

Mr. MITCHELL: No, I am not speaking of the steel workers, that is true, because they are not on strike yet. But they take these people out on the street, and then, when they get into a jam, as they say, they come to me and ask me to get them out of it. I believe that the sanctity of contract is the very basis of democratic life, and I do not think that anybody, be he employer or employee, who deliberately breaks a contract is rendering any service to the organization he is supposed to represent, or to himself, or to the country.

Mr. GILLIS: Mr. Speaker, I hardly think that lecture was called for by the question I asked, because I too agree as to the sanctity of contracts. But the present dispute involves a large percentage of the steel workers in my own community.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. GILLIS: There has been no strike there. They have been negotiating.

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT PARIS CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I mentioned yesterday that I hoped to be able to make a statement to-day on Canada's representation at the Paris conference. Hon. members will have noticed that in the invitation which was accepted there is mention of the following fact:

Detailed particulars of the organization of the conference and of the rules of procedure recommended for consideration will be forwarded to the Canadian embassy in Paris.

I have cabled the embassy to see if it is possible to get this detailed information before making a statement to the house. I expect to have it in time to make a statement to-morrow afternoon.

RESERVE ARMY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRANT OF CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. BLACK (Cumberland): I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether any consideration has been given to the recommendation of an honour list of members of the reserve army, which rendered such valuable services and carried out its duties so faithfully during the entire period of the war. Is it proposed that the services of these men be given any special recognition?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of National Defence): I thank my hon. friend for his question, which has been asked by some

other hon. members. I am glad to be able to say that an appropriate certificate has been authorized expressing the government's appreciation of the devoted services rendered by the men who served in the reserve army during the war. It will be available to all who were not on active service but who had not less than six months' service in the reserve army, and it will be issued through the commanding officers of the units concerned.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

PARITY PROVISION—POSITION OF CANADIAN EXPORTERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. CHESTER S. McLURE (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, of which I sent him notice as soon as I received it myself. What protection will be afforded to an exporter of goods to the United States who signed B-13 form with the foreign exchange control board, thus contracting to bring back American money, prior to the parity of Canadian and United States funds, and who shipped, delivered and sold but had not received payment? Will he receive \$1.10 Canadian money on his contract with the foreign exchange control board?

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): The answer to the question is as follows: Facilities have been available by which exporters could cover themselves against exchange risks for certain periods ahead by entering into a forward exchange contract with a Canadian bank acting on behalf of the foreign exchange control board. If the exporter had entered into such a contract he would receive an amount of Canadian dollars based on the exchange rate prevailing at the time the forward exchange contract was made. If he did not enter into such a forward exchange contract, he will receive the rate prevailing at the time the exchange is sold to his bank in Canada.

COAL

QUESTIONS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ALBERTA PRODUCERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): I desire to direct to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply two questions pertaining to financial assistance to coal producers in Alberta. First, were Acadia Coal Mines Limited, of Calgary, Alberta, refused a hundred thousand dollar loan by the Industrial Development bank in May or June, 1946, the loan being sought to increase coal production? If so,