

Inquiries of the Ministry

notwithstanding that the time for election to count such service has expired; and to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act to make the provision respecting the eligibility of servicemen to sit as members of the House of Commons consistent with the provisions of the Canada Elections Act.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

HARBOUR COMMISSIONS

NEW WESTMINSTER—EXTENSION OF BOUNDARIES AND PROVISION FOR LOANS

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (for the Minister of Transport) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure respecting the New Westminster harbour commissioners, to extend the boundaries of the harbour, and to provide for a loan of one million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the harbour commissioners for the purpose of constructing additional dockage facilities in the harbour.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

MING SUNG INDUSTRIAL COMPANY

REPORTED MOVEMENT OF SHIPS TO SHANGHAI—
INQUIRY AS TO ACTION BY GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister, of which I have not given notice, since the subject was brought to my attention only a short time ago. In view of the report appearing in a Canadian Press dispatch today that the seven ships of the Ming Sung Company are being prepared for a dash from Canton to Shanghai, I would ask if the government has taken any action and given any instructions in connection with these ships.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I have not seen the dispatch, and I had no information about preparations being made for a dash. The only instructions of which I am aware are those that have been given by the banks, at our suggestion, to take such proceedings to arrest the ships as it may be possible to execute in those eastern waters.

Mr. Drew: Then may I ask a supplementary question? Have any steps been taken yet to deny to these ships the right to fly the Canadian flag?

[Mr. Claxton.]

Mr. St. Laurent: There are no steps that can be taken to deny these ships the right to fly the Canadian flag, other than to erase them from the register on which our mortgages are recorded, and nothing has been done to erase them from the register.

Mr. Drew: But I would point out to the Prime Minister that there is an order in council which gave these ships special permission to fly our flag, under special circumstances—

Mr. Abbott: No.

Mr. Drew: Yes; the order in council permitted these ships to operate under rules other than those which ordinarily would not permit the use of the Canadian flag. Until that is rescinded the original status stands, and I ask whether that order has been rescinded.

Mr. St. Laurent: That order is no longer operative. I am not sure just what was done about it. The form of the order was, I think, a dispensation by the Minister of Transport of the requirement that all officers be British subjects. That is the only exemption that was made, and that is no longer operative. I will have to inquire as to just how it was dealt with. I do not think that was an order in council. I believe it was merely an exemption granted under ministerial power by the Minister of Transport, but I will look into it and inform the hon. gentleman just what was done about it and when it was done.

PUBLIC SERVICE

SUGGESTED HOLIDAY ON SATURDAY FOLLOWING
GOOD FRIDAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. T. Richard (Ottawa East): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Will he give consideration to granting civil servants and prevailing rates employees a holiday on the Saturday following Good Friday?

Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State): I shall be very glad to take the matter into consideration.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR TODAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): I must direct a question to the Prime Minister, since I am rather confused about the business for today. I understood the Secretary of State for External Affairs to indicate that the motion approving the treaty with Japan would be taken up later this day. This