

New Westminster Harbour Commission

since the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Major) asked a question yesterday and I intimated that I had had no word from the cheese board in Ontario. Yesterday afternoon I received a telegram from the cheese board in Ontario saying that they were prepared to consider carrying on under our act of 1939. We expect to meet them tomorrow to discuss the matter and attempt to enter into an arrangement with them.

EXCISE TAX ACT

INQUIRY AS TO REBATE OF TAX ON AUTOMOBILES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon): I should like to ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) or his parliamentary assistant if the government has reached any decision concerning the possibility of tax rebates to automobile dealers and distributors with heavy inventories of new automobiles on which—

Some hon. Members: Order.

An hon. Member: Order paper.

An hon. Member: Go ahead.

Mr. Dinsdale:—on which taxes were paid before the recent reduction in excise tax was announced?

Mr. James Sinclair (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): Refunds are a matter of administration which would come under the Department of National Revenue. Perhaps the minister might answer that question.

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): The answer is that no rebates will be made.

HARBOUR COMMISSIONS

NEW WESTMINSTER—EXTENSION OF BOUNDARIES AND PROVISION FOR LOAN

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport) moved the second reading of Bill No. 193, respecting the New Westminster harbour commissioners.

He said: Mr. Speaker, when the resolution was being considered I made a short statement which perhaps I might amplify by saying that the bill can be divided into two parts. The first part has to do with the extension of the boundaries of the New Westminster harbour to a point northeasterly as far as Grants narrows and to a point eastward as far as New Langley. The second part of the bill has to do with the approval of a loan in the amount of \$1,250,000 by the governor in council for the purpose of allowing the harbour commissioners of New Westminster to build additional dockage facilities.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

I stated on the resolution the number of berths now in existence, but both the harbour commissioners and the city of New Westminster are of the view that additional facilities are required. The harbour commissioners have already obtained two loans from the federal government, one in the amount of \$700,000 as authorized by chapter 10 of the statutes of 1948 and the other in the amount of \$274,000 roughly as authorized by chapter 40 of the statutes of 1931.

I have nothing more to add at this stage. After the debate is completed it is my intention to move that the bill be referred to the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines for further study by that committee.

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): Mr. Speaker, there is very little that I can add on behalf of the official opposition to what I said on the resolution stage. We approve of the measure and we are glad that it is to be referred to the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines. I should like to point out to the house that this harbour commission has an excellent reputation for keeping up the interest payments on the loans which have been made. I believe it has never defaulted on these payments and I can see no possibility of there being any default if the loan as set out in this bill is granted. We believe that the council of the city of New Westminster and the New Westminster harbour commissioners are very wise in looking ahead and planning this additional dockage. It is my understanding that a bylaw will be referred to the citizens of that city to approve of the transfer of the water lots upon which the dockage is to be built. The whole project seems to be in line with the progressive and enterprising spirit that the citizens of the city of New Westminster have demonstrated for so many decades. We are very happy to support the bill.

Mr. T. H. Goode (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I think I should say something on behalf of the people of the constituency of Burnaby-Richmond. Part of the new territory that is being taken over by the New Westminster harbour commission is in my riding. In correspondence with my people they have emphasized the fact that the New Westminster harbour commission is consistently bringing forward new business ideas. I thought the minister would like to know that the people of my riding support the bill.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines.