

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN PARLIAMENT.

Weights and Measures Inspectors.—

April 3rd.—Hon. Robert Rogers told Mr. M. S. Delisle, M.P. (Portneuf), that the number of assistant inspectors of weights and measures employed at October 1st, 1911, was 68 and that the number had increased to 113 in March, 1916; he claimed that the increase was due to the general growth of business and to the increase in elevator inspection, as well as to the creation of a new inspection division in the West.

Machine Guns.—

April 5th.—Hon. P. E. Blondin told Mr. W. E. Knowles, M.P. (Moose Jaw), that the sum of \$1,265,752 had been subscribed by the public and actually paid in to the Militia Department or the Government for the purchase of machine guns for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, including \$500,000 from the Ontario Government; that not all of this money has been used for the purchase of machine guns, but that it is the intention of the Government to apply all of it for this purpose. Answering questions as to how many machine guns had been ordered and delivered and when deliveries will be completed, he stated that it is not considered in the public interest to give this information at the present time.

Port Nelson Harbor Work (Hudson Bay).—

April 10th.—Hon. J. D. Reid told Hon. George P. Graham that as yet there is no dock space available for steamships at Port Nelson; that the total cost to date of the dredge "Port Nelson" has been \$363,518.00, and that the dredge was operated for nine weeks during the season of 1915.

Transportation of First Contingent.—

April 10th.—Hon. A. E. Kemp told Mr. J. J. Hughes, M.P. (King's, P.E.I.) that 31 ships were employed to carry the first contingent of 30,000 men across the Atlantic in October, 1914; that the charter cost was \$3,363,240, the cost being largely increased in consequence of having to charter ships some time in advance in order to get a sufficient number to go in consort under convoy of war ships.

The War Purchasing Commission.—

April 10th.—Hon. A. E. Kemp told Mr. E. M. MacDonald, M.P. (Pictou), that the War Purchasing Commission which was appointed May 8th, 1915, had been authorized up to March 31st, 1916 to expend approximately \$63,000,000; that the cost of maintaining and operating the Commission to that date was \$21,154.00.

Timber for Port Nelson Work.—

April 13th.—Hon. J. D. Reid told Hon. George P. Graham that timber costing \$109,396.00 had been bought in the United States for the Port Nelson works, in addition to large quantities of Canadian timber; that in general the average cost of transporting freight of all kinds to Port Nelson was \$56.65 per ton in 1913, \$13.59 per ton in 1914 and \$9.62 per ton in 1915.

Naturalization of Aliens.—

April 17th.—Hon. C. J. Doherty told Mr. Robert Bickerdike, M.P. (St. Lawrence, Montreal), that under the Naturalization Act of 1914, granting of

certificate of Naturalization is discretionary with the Secretary of State; that the policy of not granting such certificates to persons of alien enemy nationality has been adopted. Under the Naturalization Act of 1870 which has continued in force for three years from first of January, 1915 for aliens resident in Canada before that date and under which only Canadian Naturalization is granted, the granting of certificates is in the hands of the Judges and decision of the Courts vary upon the question as to whether the state of war suspends the operations of this Act as regards persons of alien enemy nationality. He was unable to say how many of the latter class may have been naturalized in Canada since the beginning of the War.

Importing of American Hogs.—

April 17th.—Hon. P. E. Blondin told Mr. D. Sutherland, M.P. (S. Oxford), that American hogs killed and singed in the United States are being shipped into Canada in bond and later exported, and that in the past six months 279,944 lbs. of pork, fresh, chilled, or frozen, was thus entered for warehouse in Canada; that in the past six months the total amount of pork, fresh, chilled or frozen, imported into Canada for consumption and duty paid, amounted to 34,528,482 lbs.

Enlistment in Canada.—

April 19th.—Sir Robert Borden told Mr. J. W. Edwards, M.P. (Frontenac) that during the months of January, February and March, 1916, a total of 88,575 N.C.O.'s and men for overseas service enlisted with the Expeditionary Forces; 29,212 in January, 26,658 in February and 32,705 in March.

AN INSUFFICIENT EXPLANATION.

Immigration into Canada has all but reached the vanishing point since the War. Chiefly because of the falling off in immigration, the work of the Dominion Lands offices has dropped to the lowest point in years. In spite of this the estimates of the Department of the Interior, of which the Immigration branch and the Lands branch are biggest and most important, are practically double what they were in 1911. The first item submitted to the House on March 24th was for \$485,000, salaries in the Dominion Lands and Parks branch. Hon. Frank Oliver called attention to the strange fact that this was \$150,000 more than the same item in 1911, although the number of homestead entries had fallen from 44,479 to 24,088, the number of pre-emptions had fallen from 15,812 to 2,845 and the number of purchased homesteads from 1,760 to 350. He showed that the total expenditure of the Lands branch had grown from \$1,716,000 in 1911 to \$3,670,000 in the present fiscal year. Hon. Dr. Roche, Minister of the Interior, gave as one reason why this year's estimates are not less than those of last year, the explanation that 160 officials of the department are serving with the army and that their salaries are being paid, while 40 new appointments had been made to take the places thus made vacant. How far this will go to explaining the difference between 1911 and 1916 may well be left to the judgment of the average citizen.