

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

MOOSE JAW—PROPOSED NEW FEDERAL BUILDING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Louis Lewry (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): I would like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Can the Postmaster General give assurances that commitments made by the previous government for the construction of a new federal building for the city of Moose Jaw will be carried out?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I think that question would be more properly directed to the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Lewry: Then may I direct the question to the Minister of Public Works. Would the Minister of Public Works give assurances that commitments made by the previous government for the construction of a new federal building in the city of Moose Jaw will be carried out?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, this is really a question for the order paper, but there are steps under way to bring about the erection of a new post office building in Moose Jaw.

QUEBEC CITY—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS OF
NEW POSTAL TERMINAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Does the government intend to proceed, as soon as possible of course, with the construction of the new postal terminal in Quebec city?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Well, Mr. Speaker, I will have to obtain the information from my department. I will be glad to give the hon. member an answer at the earliest opportunity.

WINDSOR—STATEMENT ON PROGRESS OF NEW
POST OFFICE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Brown) raised a question regarding progress being made in the construction of the new post office in Windsor and why it was that accommodation which had been acquired is now being offered for rent.

The hon. member knows that preparations for this building have been under way for a couple of years. Unfortunately the former government had no item in the estimates for this project for the present fiscal year. The

Inquiries of the Ministry

planning vote has been utilized in the preparation of plans and in the acquisition of property. The planning vote, however, does not make it possible to call for tenders.

Pending approval of the Department of Public Works estimates, I contemplate calling for tenders as soon as the estimates for the next fiscal year have been tabled in the house. This should make it possible to carry out demolition work during the months of February and March, and for new construction to commence immediately thereafter. I am just as concerned in providing as much employment as possible during the winter months as the hon. member, but with no funds available it has not been possible for me to have this work started earlier.

The hon. member made reference to accommodation which is being rented. Settlement has been reached with all the owners of property concerned in the new site except the Windsor Hotel Supply Company. We have good reason to believe that a satisfactory arrangement will be reached with them. However, one of the conditions is that they remain in possession until March 1, 1958. For the reasons given and the lack of funds in the current fiscal year, it was felt that this requirement was one that would not interfere with our program for next year.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORTED TRANSFER OF RESERVE ARMY TO CIVIL
DEFENCE ROLE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Could he inform the house of the effective date when the reserve army in Canada will be changed from its present role to that of civil defence?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for having sent me notice of this question, and also the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Deniset) for having sent me a somewhat similar question.

I think the hon. member knows that the training year for the non-permanent militia starts on October 1 of each year. On October 1 of this year a training directive was sent out which laid down the aims for the training in the current year. Those aims read:

To prepare the militia for its role to assist in any future mobilization for active service and for civil defence. Emphasis will be given to civil defence.

I think hon. members will see that there is really no change in the role being given to the militia. The emphasis for the coming year is to be laid on civil defence, and I think hon. members will agree that that is a realistic