

Water Resources

It is somewhat early in the year to make any sound appraisal of the market prospects for a commodity like salted codfish, which, in Newfoundland, will not be ready for shipment to market until July or August at the earliest. In the meantime, the balance of the 1952 production is still going forward. Competitive production is just getting under way in the European producing countries. At the moment we have no reason to believe that there will be any significant increase in over-all world production of salted fish in 1953.

On the demand side, prediction is particularly difficult because of the complicating factor of currency restrictions in several of the important consuming markets. Officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce, as in former years, are presently in negotiation with the governments of some of these countries to make provision in their import plans for salted fish from Canada. The Newfoundland fisheries board and, through it, the fishermen of Newfoundland will be kept fully informed as new developments take place.

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): May I just ask one question of the parliamentary assistant? Has he any word yet when the report of the fisheries development committee of Newfoundland will be published?

Mr. MacNaught: The only information I have is that the report will be available very shortly.

(Translation):

CIVIL SERVICE

PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING
THE FIVE-DAY WEEK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. T. Richard (Ottawa East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott). Would he be in a position to tell me whether negotiations between officers of the treasury board and the civil service commission with regard to the five-day week for civil servants in the Ottawa district have progressed sufficiently to allow him to render a decision in the near future?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker, discussions have not progressed sufficiently to allow me to render a decision.

[Mr. MacNaught.]

(Text):

POSTAL SERVICE

APPLICATIONS FOR REVISION OF RURAL MAIL
CONTRACTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): May I ask the Postmaster General (Mr. Cote) if he is in a position yet to indicate to the house when applications for certain revisions in contracts will be received from the rural mail couriers under the new legislation?

Hon. Alcide Cote (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I doubt if I can say now when the contractors will know about this, although I presume that most of them should know by now. The bill is before the Senate, and although we could receive some of the applications now I doubt very much whether we could act upon them before the bill receives the royal assent. However I may tell my hon. friend that, presuming the bill is passed with the co-operation of both this house and the other place, we will be ready to start working on all the applications as soon as they are received.

WATER RESOURCES

ASSISTANCE TO PROVINCES FOR CONSERVATION
PURPOSES

The house resumed, from Wednesday, April 1, consideration in committee of Bill No. 109, to authorize the grant of assistance to a province for the conservation of water resources—Mr. Winters—Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

On section 4—*Agreements between provinces and local authorities.*

Mr. Black (Cumberland): There are some inquiries outstanding, and I wish the minister would answer them. One inquiry had special reference to Nova Scotia and another to Saskatchewan. I think there are some others outstanding.

Mr. Winters: Just before we rose last night the hon. member for Cumberland asked if there had been communications with the provinces about the application of this bill, and whether there had been specific requests from Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan for participation in projects under this bill. We have communicated with all the provinces of Canada, and informed them in a general way what we proposed in this legislation. They have all answered expressing interest, and a desire to see the contents of the bill. We have had no specific requests for participation from either Nova Scotia or Saskatchewan.

Section agreed to.

Sections 5 to 8 inclusive agreed to.