

If this be true, I would ask the minister to see to it that this is stopped or the boat be discontinued entirely. We are dependent upon that service.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The company will be asked for an explanation.

Trade and Commerce—trade commissioners and commercial agents, including expenses in connection with negotiations of treaties or in extension of commercial relations; miscellaneous advertising and printing, or other expenditures connected with Canadian trade, \$180,000.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: What is the increase for?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: This increase is asked for just to have the supply necessary if any extraordinary expenditures are undertaken during the year in the way of development of Canadian trade abroad and by way of establishing additional trade commissioners. It is quite improbable that the additional amount will be used this year. Since the termination of the war, however, the department is frequently in receipt of requests to send trade commissioners to many new places with a view of ascertaining if it is possible to develop trade in those places. One would expect that these requests would be made at this time when all nations are contesting very keenly for commercial supremacy in all parts of the world. I thought it would be well that we should have, perhaps, a small amount in addition to that of last year for this purpose. At the present time, I cannot say that it will be used; it does not look as if it would be this year.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: The statement was made by the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) the other day that some \$6,000,000 was expended by the Government in financing the sale of meat to Italy. Can the minister tell us what prices are being paid to producers of this meat and from whom it has been purchased?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I think it was my hon. friend who asked the minister about this matter or, perhaps, it was some other hon. member, and upon his request I laid upon the table of the House this forenoon a copy of the Order in Council to which I would refer my hon. friend. I think it will give him the information he desires.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Does this Order in Council give the names of the parties from whom the meat was purchased?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No, I do not think it would do that.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Can the minister furnish us with the names and the prices the meat was sold at?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I cannot promise to do it to-day, but I would be in a position to do it on Monday.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Is the meat taken from cold storage warehouses?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: This was meat that was purchased in anticipation of sale to the Allied powers for army purposes, and, in fact, I think the Allied powers were morally obligated to take this meat. When the armistice came, the demand was reduced very materially, and the meat was on the hands of the contractors, who endeavoured to sell it to the Canadian public, but I believe they were unable to do so almost at any price. The British Government, my recollection is, undertook to make a disposition of it so far as they could, and they entered into some arrangement with the Government of Italy whereby they would take this quantity of meat that was in cold storage in Canada and which was in danger of being destroyed altogether or becoming useless. It was for that purpose the Canadian Government gave credit to Italy.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I understood the minister to say that the British Government was handling this business and that the meat had to be sold and that Canada undertook to finance the transaction. Is the Canadian Government by taking this step relieving the Imperial Government of a responsibility?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: This is a matter of business with which I have nothing to do, and I am speaking without accurate knowledge of the facts. I will send for a copy of the Order in Council, and I will endeavour by Monday to get the further information for my hon. friend.

Mr. McKENZIE: I must reiterate what I said to the minister some time ago about the sale of goods of this character or the sending of such goods out of the country. The law of supply and demand means the supply in a country itself and the demand in that country for that supply, or the demand that a foreign country might make upon that supply with its own means or money. The Canadian consumer was entitled to the competition that would arise in this country in connection with the sale of supplies of food that were in this country and the Government is not dealing fairly with the consumer when it is furnishing money to a foreign country in order to buy