

Bill No. 4, respecting certain patents of Leonard Clayton Ridge.—Mr. Harris.

Bill No. 5, respecting certain patents of Charles A. Channell.—Mr. German.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

FUEL SUPPLY

Mr. MICHAUD:

Is it the intention of the Government to try and secure fuel supply for Canada independent of the United States?

Hon. Mr. STEWART: No steps are being taken to import fuel as a government undertaking either from the United States or elsewhere; but investigations are being carried on further to develop our domestic fuel resources especially in those parts of the country where fuel shortages occur with a view to reducing the amount of fuel imported. It would appear also that some steps are being taken by private interests in Great Britain to secure a permanent place in the Canadian market for domestic coal.

MECHANICS

Mr. MICHAUD:

Is the Government aware as to whether or not Canada is in need of more mechanics?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Information reaching the Department of Labour does not suggest the need of more mechanics for the Dominion at large. Local difficulties occasionally arise and these are frequently met through the agency of the Employment Service, by obtaining workmen found unemployed in other localities. The situation necessarily varies from day to day, and it may be found impossible in a particular case to meet in this way a demand for highly skilled workmen in a particular craft.

MONCTON AND BUCTOUCHE RAILWAY

Mr. HANSON:

1. Has the purchase price of the Moncton and Buctouche Railway been paid by the Government?
2. If not, what is the cause of the delay?
3. Is it the intention of the Government to see that the creditors of the said railway company are paid in full before anything is paid to the railway company?
4. What steps, if any, are being taken by the Government or the Department of Railways, to compel the railway company in question to pay its creditors?

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM:

1. No.
2. Failure of owners to convey the railway free of encumbrances.
- 3 and 4. The obligation is on the company to convey the property free from encumbrances. Upon this being done to the satis-

faction of the Department of Justice, purchase price will be payable to whoever may be entitled. When agreement to sell was reached, in 1918, the Bank of Montreal filed with the government power of attorney from the company to receive all moneys due or to become due.

TIMBER PERMIT

Hon. Mr. STEVENS:

Having reference to Order in Council No. 2614 published in *The Canada Gazette*, December 22, 1922, amending section 47 of the regulations governing the granting of licenses to cut timber on Dominion Lands, etc.:—

1. Have any permits been granted without competition to cut timber adjoining licenses previously granted? If so, at what location?
2. If such permits have been granted, was an inspection made and a report made in writing by the timber inspector of the district?
3. What quantity of timber is it estimated will be cut in each case?

Hon. Mr. STEWART:

No permits have been granted without competition to cut timber under the order in council referred to.

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY—LIFTING OF RAILS

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN:

1. Has an order or other instructions been issued by the Government or by the Canadian National Railways for the taking up of rails from the Hudson Bay road?
2. If so, by whom and for how much mileage and where?
3. What is the weight of these rails?
4. Have orders been issued to replace said rails?
5. If so, within what time and with rails of what weight?

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM:

1 and 2. Lifting of rails on unused portion of line (Mileage 214 to end of steel at Mileage 334) for use elsewhere in West was recommended by Vice-President and General Manager, Canadian National Railways, approved by the Board of Directors, and authorized by order in council of November 24, 1922.

3. 80 pounds per yard.

4. No; as a result of representations made to Sir Henry Thornton, when in the West recently, it was decided to let matter stand pending further consideration.

5. See answer to No. 4.

TUG—MURRAY STEWART

Mr. HANSON:

1. Has the Government or any department thereof purchased a tug called the Murray Stewart?
2. If so, what department, and what was the purchase price?
3. From whom was the said tug purchased?
4. When was it built and by whom?
5. What is her, (a) gross tonnage, and, (b) registered tonnage?
6. Who negotiated the sale to the government?