

amounts necessary to carry out the various offers which we understand he has made to the provinces.

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): I received notice of the question just before coming into the house, and I shall have to make the necessary calculations and give the answer to my hon. friend later. The question is of course one that should be put on the order paper.

Mr. GRAYDON: Thanks for the advice.

Mr. ABBOTT: Then take it.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL—AVAILABILITY OF ACCOMMODATION FOR PATIENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. DONALD M. FLEMING (Eglinton): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Why are many beds allowed to remain empty at Sunnybrook hospital at the present time while many military patients under Department of Veterans Affairs care are accommodated at overcrowded civilian hospitals?

Right Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I received notice of the question just as I was entering the house and have ascertained since, from the director of treatment services, that there are 200 vacant beds now in Sunnybrook hospital. The difficulty has been in obtaining the necessary staff but that has been overcome and the transfer will be made at the earliest possible time.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

POLISH VETERANS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. HERRIDGE (Kootenay West): May I ask the Minister of Labour the following questions. First, is the minister informed of a reported meeting recently held by former members of the Polish corps now employed on farms in Canada, at which demands were made for release from the terms of the agreement under which these persons entered Canada? Secondly, is it the government's intention to insist upon the terms of this agreement being kept?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): I have knowledge of a meeting having been held by the persons referred to by my hon. friend. As to what they discussed, I know nothing. I did arrange for an officer of the employment service of the Department of Labour to attend that meeting. Owing to weather conditions, however, the report has

[Mr. Macdonnell.]

not yet reached me. As to the second question, my hon. friend is well aware that any announcement of government policy will be made at the proper time.

PRIVILEGE

MR. CRUICKSHANK—OTTAWA "JOURNAL" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF MARCH 3

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. A. CRUICKSHANK (Fraser Valley): I rise to a question of privilege. The *Ottawa Journal* took care to criticize me for suggesting that the press gallery could not hear in this house, and I wish to refer to an article appearing in that newspaper on Wednesday, March 5. It is headed:

"We were left out," not "kicked out," St. Laurent said.

As a veteran member of this house I desire to make it perfectly clear that if there had been amplifiers in this house the press gallery would have heard that the statement was, "We were left out." The Canadian army has never been and never will be kicked out of any place in the world.

Mr. GRAYDON: You and the minister had better talk that over.

MR. POULIOT—PRESS REFERENCE TO MEMBER FOR TÉMISCOUATA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege in reference to a statement that was made a week ago and a question that was asked of the cabinet ministers when each one was challenged to rise or to raise his hand if any one of them had said to a newspaper man that I was the implacable enemy of the government. I have two hundred witnesses that no one rose or raised his hand. Notwithstanding that, the correspondent of the *Gazette* has made this observation, "Several cabinet ministers did not seem to be convinced." I will answer that young man, who is not a mind reader, by a citation from Oliver Goldsmith:

But alas! your good worships, how could they
be wiser,
When both have been spoil'd in to-day's
Advertiser?

FREIGHT RATES

INQUIRY AS TO APPLICATION FOR INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. A. TUCKER (Rosthern): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. The suggestion was made by the premier