

*Inquiries of the Ministry***IMMIGRATION**REPORTED TOUR BY COMMITTEE SURVEYING
CANADIAN NEEDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, press dispatches recently have reported a tour by a committee surveying immigration needs in Canada. I should like to ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration whether this is a new committee or whether it is just the annual survey of employment opportunities for immigrants being made by his department. In either event, can he say whether that survey has yet reached British Columbia and, if so, whether any action is being taken to meet the acute shortage of farm labour out there, about which he knows?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, from the rather vague description which the hon. gentleman gives I cannot identify what it is he is talking about. However, I will see my deputy minister shortly and see whether he can throw any light on the matter.

Mr. Fulton: Perhaps the minister would refer to his colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce, because the press dispatch is datelined Fort William, and it says the committee was in Fort William and was having interviews in that city.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not doubt that it was.

TRANSPORTBRITISH COLUMBIA—ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF
BOX CARS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct to the Minister of Transport this question which will create a record that will never be equalled again in this parliament. Has the minister received any complaints with respect to the shortage of box cars for fertilizer and lumber in British Columbia?

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that question may be answered in the negative.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSEGYPT—INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN CITIZENS IN
COUNTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister tell us whether or not there are any—whether few or many—Canadian citizens in Egypt at the present time?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the hon. member the number. However, we are taking steps to inquire of our embassy how many Canadians have registered there. I hope this reply will not be taken as indicating that there is any special crisis or emergency in Egypt with respect to Canadians at the present time.

Mr. Nesbitt: May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the fact that this morning's news report over the Canadian broadcasting system pointed out the British government had warned its nationals to leave Egypt, I was wondering if any similar action was being contemplated by our department.

Mr. Pearson: We have had no official confirmation that a warning of that kind has been given by the United Kingdom government. We have also made inquiries about that.

DEFENCE PRODUCTIONINQUIRY AS TO BASIS OF SALE OF MACHINERY TO
AVRO AND ORENDA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John B. Hamilton (York West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. What was the basis for the price paid by Avro and Orenda for the crown-owned machinery and equipment sold to them, as announced yesterday? Was it fair market value or depreciated value, and was any consideration given to the company for the undertaking to maintain these facilities for aircraft and engine production for 10 years with a prior right of user for the crown?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, the basis of the sale was the cost of the machinery less straight line depreciation at economic rates usually provided for. There was no special compensation for the undertaking to maintain the machinery for 10 years. We do not sell machinery of that kind unless we get the undertaking to maintain it for 10 years.

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Is the minister in a position to table a copy of that agreement?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I do not think there is any agreement. A price was quoted and accepted. I doubt if there is any agreement, but if there is one I shall be glad to table it.