

Inquiries of the Ministry

municipalities in the area, discussions which I think are going to be very productive indeed.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Will the Minister of Transport be able to demonstrate in the near future some interest on behalf of other national harbours?

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. gentleman will recall that about three weeks ago I announced that the Atlantic development board had been asked to make a special study of the port of Saint John and the port of Halifax. So I naturally looked to the east before I looked to the west.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I doubt if you are one of the wise men, though.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might ask the Minister of Transport a supplementary question. I pose it to him in this way. Inasmuch as the late Mackenzie King promised that the port of Prince Rupert would be greatly expanded some time in the 1920's, I wonder whether the minister would look into that too.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I have been making plans to visit the port and I hope I can spread around the kind of sunshine that will please the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Speaker: Does the house give consent to the minister tabling his report?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): There is nothing like having a modest Minister of Transport.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

POSTMASTERS ACTING AS AGENTS FOR
NEWSPAPERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, on April 9 the hon. member for Regina City drew attention to a circular letter that had been sent out, a copy of which he said had been received by someone in Regina. He asked the question whether the postmaster there was in fact the agent for the Winnipeg *Free Press*. I expressed the hope that this was not the case, and assured him I would give him an answer this week.

I have looked into the matter and can now state that the postmaster in Regina is not and never has been an agent for the Winnipeg *Free Press*. Postmasters in large offices

or in city offices are not agents for newspapers, but it is a fact that postmasters in smaller offices, rural offices, so-called revenue offices where they rent space in corner stores, drugstores and other stores, have no restrictions on their acting as agents in this field. How this particular letter came to be sent to a resident of Regina, we do not know. We are communicating with the Winnipeg *Free Press* on this aspect of the matter. I hope I have fully answered the question of the hon. member, and I thank him for having drawn this matter to my attention.

TRADE

NON-PARTICIPATION BY CANADA IN JAPANESE
INTERNATIONAL FAIR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I would ask the minister whether he can give the reasons why Canada is not participating in the international trade fair being held in Japan, when countries such as Australia, Italy and West Germany have sought to participate.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and will endeavour to answer the hon. gentleman on Monday.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SHAWINIGAN, QUE.—AMOUNT OF CLOTHING
STOLEN FROM ARMOURY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre referred to an answer to a written question tabled on Wednesday relating to thefts of equipment from national defence property. Specifically he referred to an item quoted as "unknown amount of military clothing" stolen from Shawinigan armoury on February 20, 1964 and said this wording was "a flagrant abuse" of the rules of the house. I took the question as notice and said I would look into the matter. I can now inform the house the facts relating to this matter.

The question asked by the hon. member did not in any way limit the extent of the items stolen or suspected of being stolen and in consequence, following the appearance of this question on the order paper on February 27, it was necessary to send out signals to all military establishments across the country, including ships, asking for a detailed return.