

NEWFOUNDLAND

REQUEST FOR DECLARATION OF MARCH 31 AS
NATIONAL HOLIDAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. J. Tustin (Prince Edward-Lennox): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. It arises out of a letter I received this morning from the Lennox and Addington chamber of commerce, in which attention is drawn to the fact that an historic event will take place on March 31 next. Has the government considered or will it give consideration to declaring March 31 a national holiday, so that all Canada may join in celebrating the entry of Newfoundland into confederation?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I think it would be a little bit premature to announce a celebration at this time. The bill before the parliament of the United Kingdom is, as I understand it, to come up for second reading tomorrow, and in the House of Lords I believe proceedings are being taken to retard its adoption. I can assure the hon. member that as soon as it becomes certain that the statute enacted here will be implemented, consideration will be given to proper notice being taken of that historic occasion.

Mr. Cruickshank: Will there be a Duplessis day?

An hon. Member: No, a Cruickshank day.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

COLLECTION OF TOLLS AT ENTRANCE TO PARK
AREA—USE OF PARK HIGHWAY BY
COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. Matthews (Kootenay East): On Friday last I asked two questions of the Minister of Mines and Resources. At that time the minister indicated that he would read the questions in *Hansard* and give an answer later. Is he ready to do so now?

Hon. J. A. MacKinnon (Minister of Mines and Resources): I shall combine the answers to two questions asked by the hon. member for Kootenay East.

The department has been studying the matter of reconstruction of the existing water supply system and sewage disposal for the village of Field in Yoho national park. This village is largely inhabited by employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, where the company maintains a divisional point. In these studies co-operation has been had from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Department of National Health and Welfare. A number of suggestions have

Inquiries of the Ministry

been made, and these are being explored as rapidly as possible. In the meantime, steps have been taken to rectify the contamination by the mining company of the Kicking Horse river. Other sources of water supply have been studied, and an investigation is now under way to determine whether it is possible to obtain a safe and adequate water supply and make a water storage reservoir at a site above the village. It is hoped that money will be available in the estimates this year for work on the water system. The engineering studies in connection with the sewage system will take some time. Moreover, it will be necessary to carry on certain discussions with the C.P.R. about both the water system and the sewage system.

It is expected that it will take some time to reconstruct the main road through Yoho park and approach roads to a standard that would permit safe operation of modern freighting trucks, particularly during the months when this main artery of transportation is needed to handle the tourist traffic. There is no amount in the parks estimates for 1949-50 for the widening and setting up for hard-surfacing of the main road through Yoho park.

It is to be expected that when the trans-Canada highway is ready for travel to and through national parks, the policy with respect to charges for the use of that part of the road in national parks will be in accordance with whatever policy is adopted for the remainder of the trans-Canada highway.

(Translation):

ORDER PAPER

ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY THE MEMBER FOR
CHICOUTIMI

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Gagnon) asked me yesterday if I could explain why two notices of motion still appearing on the order paper for February 15th had been struck off. These were, I believe, Nos. 30 and 36.

Evidently such matters are under your control, but in order to save the member the trouble of finding out how he could put the question to you, Mr. Speaker, I made inquiries and was told that these motions had been struck off at the actual request of the members who had them placed on the order paper. A member who has given a notice of motion has a right to withdraw it so long as the house has not been called upon to take it under consideration.

Mr. Gagnon: Thank you very much.