

Inquiries of the Ministry

of new items. As a result, the number of articles for which export permit is required is reduced from 520 as of January 1, 1948, to 275.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE A. TOUCHE AND COMPANY AS AUDITORS

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport) moved the first reading of Bill No. 13 (from the Senate) respecting the appointment of auditors for national railways.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

NEWFOUNDLAND—TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA

On the order for motions: The Prime Minister—Motion for address to His Majesty the King respecting terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I wish to ask that this motion be allowed to stand until Monday. It had been intended to deal with it immediately after the third reading of the Newfoundland bill, but some hon. members who are not here today have expressed the hope that they might have an opportunity, at the last stage of the proceedings necessary in this house to complete the union of Newfoundland with Canada, to make some remarks on the subject, and the consideration of this motion for an address to His Majesty will give them that opportunity.

Motion stands.

THE PRIME MINISTER

REFERENCE TO DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON FOR CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Prime Minister is to leave this afternoon for an important conference in Washington with the President of the United States. Before he goes perhaps I might take the opportunity of wishing him well on his journey and in his deliberations, and ask him to convey to the President of the United States not only the good will and warm wishes of the government and its supporters in parliament, but also of parliament as a whole and of the Canadian people. I would ask him also to indicate to the President, as no doubt he will, that the most treasured desire and central objective of the Canadian people and the Canadian parliament is that the dogs of war shall be chained once and for all, and that it will never be necessary to have another world casualty list; in other words, that this country wants a just, permanent and lasting peace.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): I think in this regard the hon. member for Peel speaks for everyone.

ISRAEL

INQUIRY AS TO SENDING OF TRADE MISSION FROM CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. McCullough (Assiniboia): I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has a trade mission been sent to the state of Israel? If not, what are the government's plans in this regard?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, no trade mission has been sent from Canada to the state of Israel. The hon. member will recall that de facto recognition by Canada of the state of Israel took place only a few weeks ago, in December. I think I should say, however, that since we recognized de facto the state of Israel the government has had conversations in Ottawa with the representative of that state in Washington looking to ways and means of extending and developing our trade and commercial relations with that country. These conversations have been most encouraging.

BANK OF CANADA

REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION IN NEW CHARLOTTETOWN PUBLIC BUILDING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance with reference to the withdrawal of the Bank of Canada branch from Charlottetown. Will the minister consider the advisability of having proper accommodation arranged for the Bank of Canada branch when the new dominion building is being constructed in Charlottetown?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): The hon. member was good enough to give me notice of his question. The situation in Charlottetown was this: The Bank of Canada was obliged to vacate the premises which it occupied, and was unable to find any other premises with suitable vault accommodation. Pending the obtaining of such premises the bank has made arrangements with the Eastern Trust Company of Charlottetown so that the people of that city and of Prince Edward Island as a whole will not be inconvenienced. I understand my colleague the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier), in the preparation of the plans for the new public building in Charlottetown, is taking into account the needs of the Bank of Canada at that point.