

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, January 29, 1948

The house met at three o'clock.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

NEWSPAPER REPORT OF ULTIMATUM SENT BY
"NATIONAL INDIAN GOVERNMENT"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, in this morning's *Montreal Gazette* there is a news item by Arthur Blakely headed "Ultimatum Sent Ottawa Palefaces by 'National Indian Government'". I am wondering if we are to have a war following this ultimatum, whether it will be a civil war or war with a foreign country.

[Later:]

Mr. POULIOT: Will the Secretary of State be kind enough to inform the house of the answer that has been given to the ultimatum of the Indian government of Loretteville, Quebec, to the palefaces at Ottawa?

Hon. J. A. GLEN (Minister of Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I believe the question is addressed to me. I have just seen the article in the newspaper a copy of which the hon. member submitted to me. I shall look at it again and decide what the reply will be.

Mr. GRAYDON: Do Indians not come under the Minister of Trade and Commerce?

HONG KONG

WAR OFFICE REPORT—REQUEST FOR TABLING
OF DREW CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I had a question which I wished to direct to the Prime Minister. In his absence perhaps the Secretary of State for External Affairs will take note of it and give consideration to it. It arises out of a statement which came over the wires this morning. In view of the report released by the war office in London today with regard to the Hong Kong incident, and the reference contained in this report to Canadian forces in that area at the time, will the Prime Minister now table the Drew correspondence which he agreed to table on July 14, 1942, and which has not been tabled to date?

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

INQUIRY WITH RESPECT TO FUEL OIL SUPPLIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. STANLEY KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce? Has his attention been called to the fact that the customers of a fuel company in Ottawa today received notice that their supplies of furnace oil cannot be continued? If so, can the minister indicate whether any steps will be taken to conserve the supply now in hand, or what will be done to meet the crisis?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The situation has been called to my attention. The facts are that the company in question entered into contracts with its customers but failed to enter into contracts with its own supplier.

Mr. MacNICOL: It would not likely be one of the large companies.

Mr. KNOWLES: It is the F. W. Argue Company.

Mr. HOWE: It is difficult for the government to help enforce a contract that does not exist, and difficult for the government to find oil when all oil is under great demand. I think the customers had a right to expect that the company in question would exercise usual business prudence and contract for its supplies from a reliable refiner. My officers are attempting to help in obtaining supplies, but it is doubtful whether any solution of the situation is possible.

Mr. KNOWLES: Is the government not considering rationing?

VEGETABLES

CABBAGE—INQUIRY WITH RESPECT TO SUBSIDIZING
IMPORTATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. As the import ban on United States cabbage is to be lifted this week and the ceiling price set, is it the intention of the government to subsidize the importation of United States cabbage?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): No.