

Inquiries of the Ministry

previous year for the purposes of producing different crops, or in connection with livestock, would be suitable for the coming year.

But there was one possible change. Where western farmers had seeded a considerable acreage in flaxseed in the years during the war and up to last year, it was considered, in view of our experience, that it might be well for them not to seed so much flax; and to the extent that they desisted from seeding flax it might be wise to put their acreage into coarse grains which would be required in greater and greater volume in the years ahead.

RADIO BROADCASTING

C.B.C. TORONTO STAFF—REFERENCE TO RETURN
TABLED FEBRUARY 9

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. Church (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to a return which was tabled on February 9 in answer to a question I had asked about the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation staff in Toronto. The answer is insufficient. I notice that the Minister of National Revenue is not here; therefore I shall bring up this matter on the motion to set up the special committee, or on some other occasion when the minister is here.

PASSPORTS

QUESTIONS AS TO RENEWALS BY ISSUE OF NEW
PASSPORTS AFTER JANUARY 1

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister answer the question I asked on February 4 with regard to passports not being renewed after January 1 of this year?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am grateful to the hon. member for the patience and the courtesy he has shown in waiting for this information. I am afraid I have not even now all the information I desire to have in order to give him a full reply. But with regard to the point he raised the other day I can say this. After the Canadian Citizenship Act came into force on January 1, 1947, a new form of Canadian passport was issued. Subsequently it was found that certain inconveniences arose in renewing old passports which had been issued before January 1, 1947, because the national status of Canadians was not accurately described therein. Persons holding such passports are being asked, when they apply for renewals, to replace them with new passports. The new passports are issued without delay;

[Mr. Gardiner.]

they are valid for five years in the first instance, and may be renewed for a further period of five years.

The situation in regard to passports is now under review, particularly in relation to the practice being followed in other commonwealth countries where a similar problem has arisen. Full information is not yet available but I hope to be in position to make a further statement next week.

Mr. Fraser: When Newfoundland comes into the union, will residents of Newfoundland have to send their application forms to Ottawa?

Mr. Pearson: All I can say is that if and when Newfoundland comes into the union the citizens of that province will be issued passports in exactly the same way as they are issued to citizens of other parts of Canada.

Mr. Cruickshank: Will Peterborough have to have a special passport?

Mr. Fraser: Being the favoured county of Canada, it would be well if we did. I should like to direct another question to the minister. Has his department issued instructions to post offices, and other places where passport applications and renewals are issued, that passports cannot be renewed after January 1?

Mr. Pearson: I am not sure that that has been done, but it is one of the points I shall deal with in the answer which I hope to give to the hon. member at the earliest possible day.

IMMIGRATION

ADMISSION OF DISPLACED PERSONS—MEMBERS
OF PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. D. Shaw (Red Deer): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Resources. Unfortunately I was able to send notice to him only at a late hour. Is consideration being given to liberalizing existing immigration regulations to permit the admission to Canada of displaced persons who belong to the professional groups?

Hon. J. A. MacKinnon (Minister of Mines and Resources): I received a copy of the question just before coming into the chamber. I think it is generally understood how difficult it is to act effectively, especially with regard to two of the classes which come within the category mentioned by the hon. member—dentists and doctors. Those professions largely control the naming of those who will be eligible to practise in Canada. A few such immigrants have been allowed to come to Canada as labourers, or, in other cases, as assistants to medical men. I may say, however, that the matter is being given serious consideration.