

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

SALES OF DREDGES

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. Has the Marine department sold dredges since 1926?
2. If so, which ones, what was paid for each of them, and what are the names of the purchasers?
3. What reasons are given for said sales?
4. Are said dredges still in the service of private contractors?

MOTION FOR PAPER

WHEAT PREFERENCES OR QUOTAS

Mr. MOTHERWELL:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda or other documents exchanged between any member of the federal government or any official thereof and the representative of any grain exchange, commission firm, farm grain marketing organization, or other interested western body, on the subject of wheat preferences or quotas, in relation to the recent economic conference at Ottawa.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister of Labour a question in regard to the policy of the government concerning unemployment relief this winter, and at the time he made a very acceptable statement. He did not, however, exactly answer my question. It was this: When does the minister think he can submit to the house a statement outlining the exact policy, the relations between this government, the provinces and the municipalities in order to take care of the unemployment situation during the coming winter?

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour): The question asked is obviously one that should not and probably could not be answered. The policy this government will adopt will be made manifest from time to time and a statutory report will be made as contemplated by the statute.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): The minister told us yesterday, in this connection, that no one need suffer. There are in my own city today thousands who are suffering, and I think the policy of the government will have to be announced in the very near future or the situation in the west will be very serious.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member asking a question?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I ask the minister how soon the needy of my own city and other western cities are going to be cared for? Does this mean that I am to have no reply whatever to a very reasonable question?

Mr. GORDON: If I am assured that the hon. member is through, I will be very glad to reply to him. So far as the needy in the city of Winnipeg are concerned, as in all other cities, if the responsible officials of the city of Winnipeg and the responsible governmental officers of the province of Manitoba find they are unable to carry the burden of taking care of those who are unable to take care of themselves in regard to food, fuel, clothing and shelter, and make representations to this government, then this government is prepared to take appropriate action to see that no one suffers.

DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): During recent months two hon. members of the government have spent a good deal of time in Europe attending the Disarmament conference. I should like to know whether this house may expect to receive from either or both of those gentlemen a report on the proceedings of the Disarmament conference, some indications as to how matters now stand, and also as to the representations made on behalf of Canada at the conference?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY (Acting Secretary of State): The Disarmament conference report is being prepared and is just about ready to be given to the Prime Minister as Secretary of State for External Affairs. I need not remind my right hon. friend that the Disarmament conference has not yet concluded. It is expected to meet again in the near future and this report can be only in the nature of an interim one.

WHEAT SHIPMENTS

INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF BRITISH IMPORT DUTIES ACT, 1932

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, a question has been raised as to the interpretation to be placed upon the provisions of the Import Duties Act passed by the parliament of the United Kingdom on March 1, 1932. It will perhaps be recalled that subsection 2 of section 4 of that act reads:

(2) In the case of goods which are shown to the satisfaction of the commissioners—