

Marketing of Grain

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The question is whether the government are making any provision to protect the men from being worked twelve hours a day, and twenty-four hours every alternate Sunday?

Mr. MURDOCK: The wage rates are by the hour, I understand, the day has been one of twelve hours, generally speaking, some days thirteen hours.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: With twenty-four hours every other Sunday.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. MURDOCK: I am not sure as to that.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS— EMPLOYEES' PENSIONS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. JOS. T. SHAW (Calgary West): May I be permitted to ask the government if it has under consideration any pension scheme to be applied to the employees of the Canadian National Railway, and if not at the present time, do they contemplate taking the matter under advisement shortly?

Hon. G. P. GRAHAM (Acting Minister of Railways): That is a pretty large question to answer without any notice having been given. The Grand Trunk has a superannuation scheme. The Intercolonial has what is called a provident fund, which is a similar scheme. Just what the Canadian Northern had I am not able to say—perhaps nothing. But the question of having some kind of fund established is under consideration. I cannot give any particulars with regard to it.

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): May I ask the government if it is their intention to reconstitute the pensions committee of last year? This committee did excellent work and made a number of recommendations which became law; but I am prepared to prove that the government officials, the Pension Board, whose duty it was to carry out these recommendations, have in some cases deliberately ignored them, and in others deliberately evaded them. I know nobody to whom I can bring the matter except this pensions committee which did such good work last year.

Hon. H. S. BELAND (Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment): It is not the intention of the government to appoint a special committee on pensions and re-esta-

[Mr. Murdock.]

ishment similar to the one that was appointed at the last session. The main reason is that a royal commission was appointed during the recess to investigate problems affecting the returned soldiers. This commission is now at work and its report should be submitted before the end of the session, when proper steps will be taken to carry out its recommendations.

EMPIRE SETTLEMENT

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. R. J. MANION (Fort William and Rainy River): I should like to direct the attention of the hon. Minister of Immigration to an article which appeared in yesterday morning's press, from the London Times, in which the Times was somewhat critical of Canada for not having taken more advantage of the Empire Settlement Act, and pointed out that Australia and New Zealand were getting great advantage out of it. Will the minister be ready, shortly, to tell the House what move has been made by Canada to take advantage of the money which has been granted by the British government for this purpose?

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of Immigration): It is the intention of the government at this session to ask for some money for the purpose of taking advantage of some of the schemes promoted by the Empire Settlement Board.

THE MARKETING OF GRAIN

MOTION BY MR. MILLAR FOR A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Mr. JOHN MILLAR (Qu'Appelle) moved:

Whereas the conditions under which Canada, and particularly Western Canada, markets its grain are matters on which the prosperity of all Canada in large measure depends; and

Whereas there is a widespread and insistent demand in all the principal grain producing provinces of Canada for an improved system of marketing said grain; and

Whereas there is at present a great diversity of opinion concerning the weakness and abuse of our present system and also as to what system if adopted would prove most satisfactory for the future.

Therefore be it Resolved:

That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that this government should create a commission for the purpose of making inquiry into the grain trade, whose findings might serve as a basis for improvement of present legislation relative thereto or for the creation in the immediate future of some permanent solution of the grain marketing problem.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I realize in rising to make this motion that I am dealing with a matter of very great importance. First, let me say a few words in regard to the demand for a grain inquiry. There has been a persistent demand for it for some years,