

Inquiries of the Ministry

Trade and Commerce, but in his absence possibly his parliamentary assistant could take it as notice. The question arises out of a news report in the *Montreal Gazette* of December 9. The article indicates that a Roumanian agricultural delegation held talks with federal authorities last week and announced plans to purchase \$500,000 worth of Canadian goods; also that an invitation was extended to Canada to send an agricultural mission to eastern Europe next year.

What Canadian products were purchased, and has the invitation been accepted? If so, what will the mission attempt to buy or sell?

Hon. J. M. Macdonnell (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): Would the hon. gentleman repeat his question, please?

Mr. Olson: Perhaps I should send the minister notice, Mr. Speaker.

REPORTED EXPANSION OF CANADIAN SALES BY
ROLLS-ROYCE COMPANY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. F. Brown (Essex West): I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce but in his absence probably I can direct it to my good friend the acting minister, who I am sure needs no notice. It is noted in the *Globe and Mail* of December 6 that the Rolls-Royce Motor Car Company plans to triple its sales target in Canada in the coming year. Is this a result of the Canadian trade mission to the United Kingdom, at a time when there is much unemployment in the automobile industry in Canada?

Hon. J. M. Macdonnell (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): I am flattered that the hon. member thinks I could answer that question now. I believe I must take it as notice.

MISSION TO UNITED KINGDOM—INQUIRY AS
TO C.N.R. REPRESENTATIVE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport concerning the buying mission in Great Britain and the membership of Mr. E. A. Bromley, vice president of purchasing for Canadian National Railways. Can the minister advise the house if it is the intention of the Canadian National to buy rolling stock in Great Britain?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): I have no knowledge of any such intention.

Mr. Henderson: May I ask a supplementary question. Would the minister have any knowledge as to what the vice president in

charge of purchasing for the Canadian National might be buying for the Canadian National in Great Britain?

Mr. Hees: The answer is no.

LIVESTOCK

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION PROVIDING
HUMANE METHODS OF SLAUGHTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. C. McGee (York-Scarborough): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. I have given the minister verbal notice of my intention to ask this question. Has the minister anything to announce concerning the matter of humane slaughter of animals in abattoirs?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice. I should say that I also have notice of a somewhat similar question from the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Christian), and I thank that hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question.

As hon. members know, there has been a very considerable agitation in connection with the subject of humane slaughter, and a very understandable one. Shortly after we assumed office we understood that a committee was being formed at the request of the Ontario S.P.C.A. and the meat packers' council to see whether a workable scheme of humane slaughter in the packing houses could be devised. The government made available to that committee, on a continuing basis, the service of some of its experts in the field and, at the request and with the understanding of the committee, the government did not take any further action in this matter because we understood that the committee wished to be left free to pursue its inquiries.

Some three weeks or a month ago, as I recall it, the committee said that it felt its inquiries could not continue to serve any useful purpose and, in effect, referred the matter back to the government. About three weeks ago I met with representatives of that committee and with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness), at which time the matter was fully discussed.

I mention that background, Mr. Speaker, because I think it should be clearly understood that any suggestion of delay or lack of action in this matter cannot in any sense be fairly laid at the door of this government. Since that meeting, and since it has become clear that the committee felt it had no final solution to offer, we have been working on