

some misunderstanding in my office yesterday notice of this question did not reach the minister until a few minutes ago.

I wish to draw the attention of the government to a Canadian press dispatch dated Winnipeg, April 1, in which Mr. S. G. Blaylock, president and managing director of Consolidated Mining and Smelting company, stated that an armoured tank carrying four machine guns and six rifles is ready for instant action at his company's smelting plant at Trail, British Columbia. I would ask if this tank is owned by and under the control of the Department of National Defence. If so, upon what conditions is it loaned to the company and, if not, is it the policy of the government to allow private organizations to own fully equipped tanks armed with rifles and machine guns for instant use?

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member says, he gave me notice of the question only a few minutes ago. I have sent out an inquiry with regard to it, and I hope to have the information so that I may give the hon. member an answer before this afternoon's sitting is over.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

NEGOTIATIONS AS TO TAKING OVER OF BUILDINGS FOR WAR PURPOSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. C. SENN (Haldimand): Perhaps the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe), or the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) would be best qualified to answer a question prompted by a communication I received this morning from representatives of the alumni association of the Ontario Agricultural College, which usually holds its annual gathering at the college some time in May. Is the minister prepared to make a statement respecting the intention of the dominion government to take over the Ontario agricultural college for war purposes? Have the negotiations with the provincial government been completed? If so, will all the institution be appropriated, or only a portion of it?

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of National Defence for Air): Negotiations have been going on for some time, and I am under the impression that they have been completed, although I cannot say definitely. The Ontario agricultural college was offered to the Department of National Defence some time in December, 1939. The offer was accepted about two months ago. The work of the agricultural college will continue, with the exception of certain classes. The dormitories

will be taken over by the Royal Canadian Air Force, and I understand the students will live out in Guelph.

Mr. SENN: When does the government contemplate taking it over? Would it not be possible for the alumni association to hold their gathering in May at that place?

Mr. POWER: I cannot inform my hon. friend at the moment as to the possibility of the alumni holding its meeting after the Royal Canadian Air Force has taken over. I believe, however, that I can give my hon. friend the information before six o'clock.

CHEESE BONUS

INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENT OF LAST INSTALMENT ON PRODUCTION OF 1940

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): I am informed that the last instalment of the cheese bonus for 1940 has not yet been paid. This I believe concerns the last three months of last year. May I ask the Minister of Agriculture when this payment may be expected, and if such bonus will be paid during the current year?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): The premium on cheese which was made available last year was paid from funds voted during the last session. In view of the fact that there was quite an increase in the production of cheese, as well as a greater improvement in quality than was expected, a supplementary was necessary in order to make final payments. I understand that the payments will be made as soon as the money is available.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The money is available now.

HOUSING

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION OF NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED DWELLINGS FROM RENT CONTROL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that it has been represented to me that the control of rents is tending to hinder the construction of houses, would the Minister of Finance give consideration to the exemption of newly-constructed houses from the authority of the rent control board?

Mr. ILSLEY: That is a matter for the Minister of Labour.

Hon. N. A. McLARTY (Minister of Labour): The matter is entirely new to me, but I shall be glad to discuss it with the