

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

appeared in the papers. There was a further reference to it in the press this morning.

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** I hope to be able to make an announcement in that regard on Monday, and I understand that an announcement will also be made on Monday in the House of Commons at Westminster.

**Mr. Graydon:** There is to be a conference?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** The question of the desirability of holding a conference is being considered, and I hope that an announcement can be made on Monday.

**GRASSHOPPERS**

## SASKATCHEWAN—INQUIRY AS TO FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the threatened grasshopper infestation this summer in Saskatchewan; according to the dominion entomological branch at Saskatoon it will be the worst since 1939. As the matter is urgent and inquiries have been received from rural municipalities, will the Department of Agriculture not depart from its usual stand, in view of the danger which threatens three-quarters of the Saskatchewan crop? The province seems to be having difficulty in meeting the situation, and I should like to ask if assistance can be given.

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** As has been intimated by the hon. member for Lake Centre, according to long-standing practice, infestations of grasshoppers are dealt with directly by the municipalities, which are under the control of the province. We have an understanding with all provinces that we will follow the flights of grasshoppers from down in the United States until they cross the Canadian border, and supply all information about their movements. We also supply technical information with regard to any new means that may have been developed elsewhere to deal with grasshoppers. But the actual dealing with the grasshoppers is a provincial matter, and it has always been handled satisfactorily in that way. We see no reason for any change in that regard.

**Mr. Coldwell:** May I ask a supplementary question on the technical side? Has the minister any knowledge of the success of the use of aeroplanes in preventing grasshopper infestation?

**Mr. Gardiner:** The reports up until recently are to the effect that that is not too satisfactory a method of dealing with grasshoppers. Some of the older and some of the new methods of spraying are more satisfactory—but not spraying from aeroplanes.

**Mr. Smith (Calgary West):** The minister might have our customs officers stop them when they attempt to cross the border.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS**

## PRINTING BUREAU—WAGE RATES OF EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Yesterday the Secretary of State answered a question which I asked with respect to wages paid at the printing bureau. The minister said:

The wages are then put in line with the wages being paid in those cities.

The reference was to Montreal and Toronto. In view of complaints I have received since that statement was made, as to its accuracy, may I ask the Secretary of State if he will obtain specific information as to the scale of wages paid to printers, day side and night side, job and newspaper, in Toronto and Montreal, and let us have a comparison with the scale paid at the bureau?

**Hon. Colin Gibson (Secretary of State):** I think that is a question that might well be put on the order paper. I do not think I could be expected, and I do not think my hon. friend expects me, to give that information immediately. I can get it and give it to the house later.

**Mr. Knowles:** I did not expect the minister to answer now, but he could take this as notice.

**HOUSING**

## PROTECTION OF VETERAN'S EQUITY IN CASE OF ILLNESS, ETC.

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West):** On January 28 I asked the following question, as recorded on page 44 of *Hansard*:

Has the government, or any agency of the government, worked out ways and means by which the veteran buying a house under any of the government plans will not, in case of illness, low wages or work stoppage, lose any reasonable equity that he may have in the house?

The minister said that the matter had been given consideration, but he could not give me an answer at that time. Can he give me an answer now?