

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Trade and Commerce anything to report with regard to what we may expect in view of the decreased sales anticipated? What are the markets we may expect?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have not heard of any general disapproval of the wheat agreement.

**Mr. Rowe:** I said "disappointment".

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** The international wheat agreement was negotiated by a group of department officers with the help of six farm advisers, the latter being the presidents of the principal farm organizations of western Canada. The representatives of the farm organizations recommended the agreement. I have no reason to believe that they are disappointed. Of course, the only disappointment there can be is that the United Kingdom have decided not to join the agreement. It was hoped that they would join the new agreement. On the other hand, Argentina and Sweden, which are important exporters, have joined the agreement for the first time. To that extent its value has been enhanced.

**Mr. Rowe:** Mr. Speaker, if I may I should like to ask a supplementary question. In view of the reports appearing in the papers, is it true that we can expect about a 30 per cent decrease in our share in the world's market for wheat?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** No; that is not true. It is true that the quantities within the agreement have been decreased by 30 per cent. But in the past year we have done far more business outside the agreement than we have done inside it. The value of the agreement lies in the fact that the exporters and importers of many countries have decided that a range of values for wheat between \$1.50 minimum and \$2 maximum is reasonable. I think this will be a valuable agreement affecting the price of wheat.

**TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY****BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY AS TO CHANGE IN ROUTE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. H. Goode (Burnaby-Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been able to give the Minister of Public Works notice of this question. Perhaps he can answer it for me next week. Has the minister received any intimation that the government of British Columbia are planning a change in the route of the trans-Canada highway to include the Oak street bridge?

**Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works):** Only through the columns of the press, Mr. Speaker.

**CANADA EVIDENCE ACT****SUGGESTED USE OF MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC FILM AS PROOF OF RECORDS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough):** I should like to ask the Minister of Justice if he can answer the question I asked him yesterday.

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I am not yet able to answer my hon. friend's question, but I think I might take advantage of his rising now in order to ask him to elucidate it to some extent. Yesterday he asked:

Has any consideration been given to amending the Canada Evidence Act so that microphotographic film would be taken as proof of records of municipal governments?

An amendment to the Canada Evidence Act would affect only criminal proceedings, civil proceedings and other matters respecting which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction. This would not affect the general run of lawsuits in which matters coming under provincial jurisdiction are concerned. The hon. member is clear on that point?

**Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):** Yes; I am clear on that point. What I have reference to are matters coming before the exchequer court here.

**Mr. Garson:** Matters coming before the exchequer court and in criminal proceedings?

**Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):** That is right; and in criminal proceedings.

**Mr. Garson:** We have not received any request for such consideration for some considerable time. I am having the department check back to see whether we have had any request. When that check has been made I will reply later.

**Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):** May I just say this. Because certain departments of government were microfilming their records, a couple of municipalities asked that this be done and that this government take the initial step in amending the Canada Evidence Act. Then the province might do the same.

**Mr. Garson:** Mr. Speaker, I think the point the municipalities might well consider is whether, for the few occasions on which their records would be required in criminal proceedings or in civil proceedings in the exchequer court, they would want to go to the expense of installing a system of this sort for all their records.