

*Inquiries of the Ministry***BUTTER****FLOOR PRICE—INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSAL OF  
CREAM PRODUCERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. A. Charlton (Brant-Wentworth):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is the government prepared to accept the proposal of the cream producers of Canada to establish a floor price of sixty-two cents a pound for butter as a means of ensuring a reasonable supply for next winter?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** The matter is under consideration, and when the government is prepared to make an announcement, it will be made.

**Mr. Fraser:** When will that be?

**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS****QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA  
FRUIT GROWERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I should like to direct a question to the appropriate minister. On March 19 this house passed a motion of mine for the production of papers with respect to the correspondence between British Columbia and the federal government in connection with compensation for fruit trees destroyed by frost in British Columbia. Has the government received the permission of the government of British Columbia with respect to the correspondence, and when will the return be tabled?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** The government has had two or three different proposals from the government of British Columbia, and on each occasion the same decision has been reached as was reported to the house some days ago, namely, that the amount involved is not considered to be beyond the capacity of the province to take care of, and that it is one of these matters which is generally considered to be a provincial responsibility, if it is the responsibility of anyone to assist.

**Mr. Fulton:** May I ask another question dealing with the same matter? Has the government reached any decision, and if so, what decision, on the later representations which I understand were made during the course of the past week or so on the same subject by the fruit growers of British Columbia?

**Mr. Gardiner:** This is one of the matters, and it is the matter which was considered last. It was considered not earlier than today,

and the same decision was reached on it as had been reached on the other.

**Mr. Herridge:** The Minister of Agriculture did not answer my question. I finally asked: Is the government going to table the correspondence and documents mentioned in the motion for the production of papers?

**Mr. Gardiner:** There is no objection to that, Mr. Speaker. The documents, I think, were tabled up to a certain date; there has been other correspondence since, and that can be tabled as well.

**LONG-TERM LOANS FOR REHABILITATION  
OF ORCHARDS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. O. L. Jones (Yale):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question which may be regarded as supplementary to the one which has just been asked. Was consideration given to the request of the fruit growers for long-term loans at low interest rates to rehabilitate their orchards?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** Yes; that was a question which was up for consideration today, and the same decision was reached with regard to it as had been reached previously on the other question.

**STEEL****DEFENCE PRODUCTION—QUESTION AS TO SUPPLY  
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Angus MacInnis (Vancouver East):** May I have an answer to the question I asked the Minister of Defence Production on Friday, concerning correspondence with the Sheet Metal Association of British Columbia? Has the minister the information for me?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Defence Production):** I regret that I have not the material to answer the question. I sent for it this morning. I was asking my secretary a few minutes ago whether it had arrived, but it has not. I assure the hon. member that the matter is in hand and he will get the answer tomorrow.

**SUPPLY FOR MANUFACTURE OF HOT WATER TANKS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. When he is