

myself called at two or three stores yesterday and asked, as though I were a prospective buyer of seed potatoes, what the price was, and I hesitate to mention it on the floor of the house lest I should be accused of extravagance. I submit that the matter should be looked into at once. Now is the time to see to it that the seed potato situation is attended to and not in two or three weeks' time, when it will be too late.

Mr. ILSLEY: How wide an area does the hon. member wish me to cover? He has asked me for a statement covering prices in all parts of Canada. Do I understand that that is what he wants?

Mr. BLACKMORE: Take the prevailing prices in the different provinces, in the various centres of the provinces. If the prices mentioned to me in Ottawa yesterday are any indication of the prices prevailing throughout the country, I would say that a large percentage of prospective planters of seed potatoes will not plant them at all.

Mr. MacNICOL: What was the price?

MEAT

INQUIRY AS TO DISTRIBUTION OF PRICE CHARTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): Yesterday was the first day of meat rationing; and yesterday, also, the ceiling was raised on meat prices. I understand that there are price charts printed on meat prices. Can the minister tell us whether those charts have been issued yet to the retailers and also to the householders?

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): To the retailers?

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): And the householders.

Mr. ILSLEY: I am not in a position to give the hon. gentleman that information.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Can the minister find out?

Mr. ILSLEY: Oh, yes.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Because there were no price charts issued up to yesterday morning.

WAR REFUGEES

INQUIRY AS TO ADMISSION OF JEWS UPON RELEASE FROM ENEMY TERRITORY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. H. KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct to the Prime Minister a question of which I gave him notice earlier in the day. Has the government received a copy of a resolution adopted recently by the annual conference of the western division of the Canadian Jewish Congress, which was held in Winnipeg? The resolution to which I refer requested that sanctuary be provided in Canada for a reasonable number—and I quote these words directly from the resolution, "sanctuary for a reasonable number"—of Jewish refugees who may be released from nazi-held territory. In the light of the untold suffering of these people, will the Prime Minister make a statement either as to the nature of any reply to this resolution, or as to the attitude of the government in this matter?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I did not receive my hon. friend's note until just before coming into the house. I had not an opportunity to find out definitely whether the particular communication to which he refers has been received, but I think I should be safe in saying, having regard to the number of communications which have been received on the subject to which he refers, that it would be among the number.

Yesterday the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) asked me if I would consider making a statement with respect to refugees from Europe generally, and the government's attitude towards the problem. I had better wait, I think, until I make the statement on refugees generally before attempting to reply to that part of the problem which would refer exclusively to members of the Jewish community. I shall, I expect, be making the statement in the course of a few days.

Mr. COLDWELL: May I ask the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, whether, when he makes a statement on the refugee situation, he will call an item in external affairs so that there may be an opportunity for discussion, instead of giving a statement that will not afford that opportunity.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I may take up the subject when I get to the estimates of the Department of External Affairs.