

approval of hon. members, I will bring the legislation down not this session but early next session.

Mr. BENTLEY: If there is no bill this session to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, will that prevent changes in regulations for this year's operations if the suggestions are acceptable to the minister?

Mr. GARDINER: No. There is a general section in the act which provides for the making of regulations. I presume it would be the same in an amended act. The regulations could, if thought desirable, be changed.

SEED ACT

INQUIRY AS TO REVISION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. MARK C. SENN (Haldimand): I understood that earlier in the session the Minister of Agriculture suggested that the Seed Act was to be revised this year. Is there any intention of bringing down now a new bill?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I am not certain about a revision of the Seed Act. There was a suggestion made earlier in the session, which I hope and believe is being carried out, that some provision be made in the supplementaries for payments which had not been provided for in the regular estimates and which it was understood would be provided for. I think the passing of the estimate itself in that regard constitutes legislation upon it. But there is no change made in that intention, if that is what the hon. member had in mind.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—HOLIDAYS WITH PAY—APPLICATION OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, of which I have given him notice. Because of inquiries I have had in the province of Saskatchewan may I ask if railway companies are subject to provincial legislation regarding holidays with pay for their employees?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): I thank the hon. gentleman for sending me notice of his question. In answer to him I can only say that the question is a legal one which may eventually have to be decided by the courts. The legal departments of the railways. I am informed, have discussions under way with the provinces and I prefer to refrain from expressing an opinion for the present.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLERS FOR STEEL INDUSTRY—NOTIFICATION TO UNITED STEELWORKERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Labour, arising out of a long distance telephone call I got from Toronto just before I came into the house. Did the minister say that the representative of the united steelworkers of America had received a copy of the order in council which he tabled in the house yesterday? The complaint is that they have not received it.

Hon. HUMPREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): The order did not go through council until about half-past four yesterday; it then had to be signed and passed through the usual channels, but I did instruct my department to send copies forthwith to the parties concerned. That is purely a matter of mechanics; it is always done in that way.

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): May I ask a supplementary question arising out of the one just asked by the hon. member for Vancouver East? At the present time a maximum increase of approximately ten per cent or ten cents an hour is fixed by the wage regulations. Is that mandatory in the present steel dispute, or has the controller power to negotiate further with the war labour board if he so desires?

Mr. MITCHELL: I have no knowledge of any fixed amount in any regulations of any kind whatsoever. My advice to the leaders of some labour organizations—and I am now speaking of a very small minority—is that if they would avail themselves of the machinery that is set up I do not think we would have a strike in Canada to-day. Let me say very plainly to my hon. friend, because I think it should be said, that down through the years labour and employers have asked for representation on boards. Now I know that some of the young men who are in charge of organizations to-day, who have not had the experience of some older men like the hon. member and myself, believe they are rendering a service to organized labour by circumventing the machinery set up for the settlement of disputes. I think that in the light of experience they will find out that they were wrong. Consider my own position. These people take the men out on the street, as they say, and they are out for a while; they break agreements with the employers—I am not speaking generally, you understand—

Mr. GILLIS: Or of the steel workers.