

ed to bring the total of wheat export sales this year up to the 500 million bushel figure that he has been quoted as expecting?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there have been constant reports of sales of wheat, for instance, not long ago to Brazil, and so on, and there is every prospect still that our exports for this year will hit record levels. Of course the sale announced this morning, like some of the other sales, relates particularly to the next crop year and so begins to lay the foundation for a very rapid movement of grain into the next crop year as well.

Mr. Murta: Can the minister inform the House what total wheat sales are up to this point for this crop year?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it is not customary to be too precise about the sales figures, but I did indicate in answer to a question this morning that the likely total export sale of wheat for the 1970-71 crop year, which ends on July 31, will be within the range of 430 million bushels to 470 million bushels.

APPROXIMATE PRICE OF WHEAT SOLD TO RUSSIA

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. It refers to his statement earlier this morning with respect to the large sale of wheat to Russia. Can the minister indicate what the approximate price in this sale was, and if the wheat was in fact sold at a price per bushel that would compensate the Canadian wheat producer?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Well, Mr. Speaker, the exact selling price is also confidential information between buyer and seller. However, recent Wheat Board listed prices have been in ranges which have been approximately at the minimums under the International Grains Arrangement.

* * *

TRADE

STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF PRODUCTS EXPORTED—REASON FOR DELAY IN PRODUCTION OF REPORT

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I was asked a question yesterday by the very energetic and distinguished member for Prince Edward-Hastings—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: I cannot help but agree with that.

Mr. Pepin:—about the monthly breakdown of exports, and the information it usually provides on the degree of fabrication of exports. I have inquired, and I presume that a number of people in DBS have stayed up overnight. The explanation is that computer programming is encountering scheduling difficulties, for the first time in recent history of this set of statistics.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pepin: However, DBS officials having worked overnight I have some preliminary statistics, subject to further auditing and possible revision.

Mr. Hees: Which I am sure they will get.

Mr. Pepin: These statistics, which I am very keen to show to the hon. member, show that preliminary tabulations of the data indicate that the proportion of end products to total domestic exports was higher in April, 1971 than in April, 1970, and the same is true for the first quarter of 1971 compared with the first quarter of 1970. So I know the hon. member will be delighted to receive this information.

* * *

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

BRUCK MILLS LIMITED—POSSIBLE CLOSING OF MONTREAL PLANT

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I also want to reply to the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe who inquired from me yesterday about Bruck Mills Limited, in Montreal, which would be on the eve of shutting down their plant.

He is right about the main point only. One hundred and thirty-five employees and not 250 are involved. Some of them will be hired by a research and development laboratory which is being built by the company in Montreal. Others will obtain employment in the same sector—knitting—in the Montreal area and the company points out that it will hire another 250 employees in the Sherbrooke area.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

Mr. Hees: On a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order. We are running short of time. I would suggest that the matter might be pursued at the next sitting of the House. For the moment the Chair has recognized the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

* * *

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

CONTINUATION OF LEGISLATIVE POSITION BEYOND DECEMBER, 1971

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I would not object to the hon. member responding to that statement on motions, but in any event I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I would like to know if there has been a special meeting recently between himself and the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission, and if the discussion involved the continuation beyond December, 1971, of the legislative position of the Prices and Incomes Commission?