

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): In view of the minister's statement that a record volume of wheat was carried and exported in the last year, can he tell us why there was a decrease of some three million bushels in the amount shipped out of Churchill this year?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is argumentative.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question related to the studies and investigations which are taking place with respect to the port of Vancouver. Would the minister mind casting his eyes northward to what is probably the most important seaport in British Columbia, namely, Prince Rupert?

Mr. Pickersgill: The minister of Indian affairs and I have been devoting all our spare time to the consideration of the improvement of Prince Rupert which, we believe, has the kind of future that Sir Wilfrid Laurier envisaged for it in 1903 but which, up to now, it has not enjoyed.

AGRICULTURE**BUTTER—IMPORTATION FROM NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the diminishing supplies of butter in Canada, has the minister made arrangements through the stabilization board to import butter to Canada either from New Zealand or Australia?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the matter is under continuous review by the board. In keeping with their traditional policy in this regard, if required sufficient butter will be imported at the most economical price in order to protect both the price to the consumers and the constancy of supply, which in the long run will help the producers.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary question. When the minister makes this proposed importation will this butter be labelled in such a way that the Canadian consumers will know from which country it was imported?

Mr. Greene: Well, Mr. Speaker, I assume they will be eating butter. I take it the hon. member means labelled so that the consumers know from which country it originated. That matter has not yet been considered but I will be pleased to take note of the hon. member's suggestion.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Could the Minister of Agriculture tell us whether he intends to present soon a piece of legislation to promote the production of Canadian butter instead of reducing its consumption through a price increase, as we experienced recently?

[English]

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I think the current policy and the improved price situation has given some encouragement in this regard. If further encouragement is required we will, of course, consider this in formulating next year's policy.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**"INDIAN NEWS"—PRODUCTION IN AN INDIAN LANGUAGE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. My question relates to a publication produced by his department called "Indian News" which is printed in both English and French. Would the minister explore the possibility of at least having a portion of this publication and the articles therein produced in one of the Indian languages?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question and I will take the matter under advisement.

COAL**ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY IN CAPE BRETON**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the cabinet arrived at a decision which will fulfil the commitment made by the minister in Halifax in respect to aid to the Cape Breton coal industry, which was followed up by further reviews of the matter by a committee in Ottawa prior to the expected visit by the minister to Sydney on November 3, which really in fact did not take place?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows that this question should be answered by the minister who has administrative responsibility for the matter raised by the hon. member.