

Inquiries of the Ministry

I think the hon. member will understand that it is not a question of the R.C.M.P. having evidence, but I may say that the force has been in touch with police forces in several other countries in this connection and with the Italian police. I may also say that Luciano is the subject of a warning circular issued by the international police body.

developments. What I would like to know is, what is the Alberta government going to do about it?

Mr. Hansell: May I ask the minister a supplementary question, since his answer was somewhat long? Does the minister believe that the reason the railroads have adopted the diesel engine lies in Alberta's prosperity?

COAL**INQUIRY AS TO SHUT-DOWNS IN ALBERTA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. Hansell (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. After sending the minister notice of this question it occurred to me that perhaps it may have been more appropriate to address this question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Prudham). My question is this, based upon a telegram which I received this morning. Has the government any knowledge of the report appearing in the *Calgary Albertan* that the coal mines in Coleman, Alberta, are to close down operations on March 31, and that other mines in the Crowsnest pass are likely to follow with shut-downs? If so, does the government contemplate any remedial action?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, notice of my hon. friend's question reached me as I was entering the house. I have no information on the matter and I did not have an opportunity to speak to my colleague the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, who is more likely to have some information. Perhaps he could add something to my reply.

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the report to which my hon. friend refers. I am sure all hon. members know that the coal industry in both eastern and western Canada is experiencing difficulty at the present time. In western Canada the industry's difficulties have been brought about largely through competition from oil and gas. I need not remind hon. members that the natural resources belong to the provinces. The province of Alberta has prospered enormously from the sale of natural gas and oil rights; only recently I saw a report of one sale amounting to over \$30 million for two comparatively small areas of land. The province of Alberta is prospering from these recent developments. The coal industry is suffering from these

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**REQUEST FOR CHANGES TO COVER
SHORT DAY WEEK**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour and I trust he will take this as notice. In view of the relatively new and increasingly large-scale current practice in many industries, including the textile and machine-tool industries, of placing employees on a short day week in order to prevent lay-offs and consequent total unemployment, would the minister take into consideration making either appropriate changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act or appropriate changes in its present administration in order that industrial employees working on a short day week may receive full benefits under the act?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to take that as notice of my hon. friend's question.

GOLD**TRADING ON LONDON MARKET—STATEMENT AS
TO GOVERNMENT ACTION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on Monday the hon. member for York West (Mr. Adamson) asked me if the government intended to initiate a gold market in Canada. There are no restrictions on the buying, selling, or ownership of gold in Canada. There are no restrictions placed by the government of Canada on the use which Canadians may make of their holdings of sterling or of any other currency. Gold may be imported into Canada but no undertaking will be given that a subsequent application to export the gold will be approved.

No changes in the regulations concerning the export of gold are currently under consideration. In the judgment of the government the present regulations serve the best interests of Canada. If any changes were to be made, there would, of course, be an immediate public announcement.