

Mr. ADAMSON: Between the mayor of Toronto and wartime housing.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am not familiar with the conference, but I shall be glad to inquire and give a reply.

Mr. ADAMSON: I will give my hon. friend the correspondence.

PURCHASE OF WARTIME HOUSES BY PRESENT
OCCUPANTS—EVICTION OF SOLDIERS'
FAMILIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. BLACK (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Munitions and Supply. Are any steps being taken by the department to facilitate the sale of wartime houses to war workers who are now occupying these houses? I know cases where the occupants are desirous of purchasing the houses. Can such sales be made? I think it will be generally agreed that they should be made as quickly as possible, both in the interests of the occupants and in the interests of the country.

Mr. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Munitions and Supply): I did not get notice of the question, but I shall be glad to take cognizance of it and give my hon. friend a reply.

Mr. GRAYDON: I should like to ask a question arising out of the one just put regarding wartime houses. Perhaps the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Munitions and Supply would take the question as a notice and give a reply at the next sitting of the house. One of the mayors at the recent meeting of the heads of municipalities which took place in Quebec made a statement—I have not it with me but I shall be glad to send it to my hon. friend so that he may be in a position to answer—to the effect that in a particular locality so long as the occupant of one of these wartime houses was working in a war plant he was allowed to live in the house, but the moment he enlisted for active service his wife and family were evicted. That occurred, according to the report, at a time when there were in that locality vacant houses in the wartime housing group. I will send the clipping to the parliamentary assistant.

FARM FLOOR PRICES

INQUIRY WITH RESPECT TO LEGISLATION TO BE
BROUGHT DOWN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question [Mr. Chevrier.]

to the Minister of Agriculture. On one or two occasions the finance minister has indicated to the house that we might expect a bill establishing floor prices for farm products, and I think he also intimated that the Minister of Agriculture might be the one to introduce the bill. May I ask the minister when we may expect it, and who will introduce it?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): The bill is in preparation in my department in cooperation with the Department of Justice. It will be brought down in a very short time. I cannot give the exact date, but it will be brought down very shortly.

THE BUDGET

DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Thursday, June 29, consideration of the motion of Hon. J. L. Ilsley (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, and on the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Rowe.

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, we have just listened to the splendid address delivered by the Right Hon. Mr. Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand. As one who was born in the same country, indeed in the same neighbourhood, may I pay my humble tribute to one of Scotland's sons who has made a name for himself by his public service to New Zealand and thereby to mankind.

In rising on this occasion to take part in the budget debate, my purpose is to discuss one or two matters affecting particularly the people of British Columbia, but before doing so I wish to touch briefly on some of the matters outlined in the budget which have been mentioned by various speakers since the debate began.

The chief critic for the official opposition in his speech accused the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) of bringing down an election budget. While this may or may not be the last budget before an election takes place, the fact that only a few minor changes have been made from the budget presented last year to the house and country makes the accusation to my mind seem ridiculous.

I wish to say a word regarding the criticism that has been levelled against the refundable portion of the tax which has now been eliminated. The members of the war expenditures committee visited various factories throughout the country and discussed with the workmen in them matters pertaining not only to their work but to conditions generally, and their reactions to the various rules and regulations by which