

Inquiries of the Ministry

of Trade and Commerce. In view of the report a few days ago that negotiations were deadlocked or broken off between representatives of 46 nations attending a conference in London to discuss the renewal of the international wheat agreement, would the minister care to make a statement as to whether any progress has been made?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The meeting of the representatives of 46 countries was held in London to discuss the extension of the international wheat agreement. All matters affecting the agreement were explored, and it is felt that some of the ancillary problems should be settled before final discussion on the maximum and minimum prices would take place. A continuing committee was appointed to deal with the ancillary problems and the meeting will be arranged later in this calendar year to discuss the most important problem which of course is to determine the maximum and minimum prices for the further period of the agreement.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What are the ancillary matters that are to be discussed?

Mr. Howe: Delivery points, carrying charges and a considerable number of other points.

Mr. Coldwell: Will the expected meeting be held before the beginning of our crop year?

Mr. Howe: No. The present agreement extends until August, 1953, so there is no urgency.

LAKE ONTARIO

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON LAKE SHORE EROSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): I should like to direct to the Minister of Public Works a question which may concern also the Minister of Resources and Development. Have they anything to report to the house with respect to the investigation being conducted into shore erosion in lake Ontario?

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (Minister of Public Works): As Minister of Public Works I have no further report to make. Perhaps my colleague has something to say.

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): Mr. Speaker, several days ago a delegation including members of the Ontario government discussed with me the high levels of water in the great lakes which have occurred this year as a result of unusual conditions. I told them that circumstances were such as to make it difficult

[Mr. Catherwood.]

for either government to deal with the matter, that the high water levels were beyond our control. Since that time the Canadian government has agreed to participate in a reference to the international joint commission to enable that body to study the reasons for the high water levels. That information has been communicated to the government of Ontario.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

INQUIRY AS TO PROCEDURE NECESSARY FOR HOSPITALIZATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence in connection with James Farthing referred to in a Canadian Press dispatch today which states that this man had to return from Vancouver to Trenton in order to get his papers. What is the rule of the R.C.A.F. which makes necessary that type of apparent bureaucratic bungling?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): I saw the press report and have asked for a report on it. Until it is received, I am not, nor is the hon. member, in a position to make any comment on the expression "bureaucratic bungling." I suggest that if he was returned to Toronto for treatment it was for some reason quite other than that suggested of putting him together with his papers.

BEEF

INQUIRY AS TO ACCEPTANCE OF BEEF FROM MANITOBA FOR SHIPMENT UNDER AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. Ross (Souris): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture with respect to his announcement about the United Kingdom-New Zealand-Canada beef agreement. Is it a fact that under that agreement beef will not be accepted for shipment to Great Britain from Manitoba while the provincial embargo exists against the importation of beef into that province?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): I do not think any such decision has been reached by anyone, but the fact is that for the time being beef is being taken out of Alberta and Ontario. I understand that the present position is that Manitoba is killing its own beef and no beef from anywhere else. I would understand from that that they are able to consume their own beef within the province and supply a limited outside market. They are not killing any from outside Manitoba and most of what usually did pass from Winnipeg on to other parts of