

morning, sent from London by Herbert L. Matthews, regarding the food crisis in the British zone of Germany? Reference is made also to the serious situation in the American zone and in referring to both zones the item says "they are quite simply starving". I should like to know if the Canadian government has been approached in this matter, and if there is anything it can do in a situation which has economic, political and humanitarian aspects?

Right Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): The leader of the house has suggested that I should answer the question which has just been asked and in reply I would say that no consideration has been given to the matter reported on in this morning's papers. However, consideration has been given on many occasions to the possibility of supplying more food for Great Britain and for the other countries which are concerned in obtaining food from Great Britain. All the food which can be accumulated under the different programmes that have been set up is being shipped mainly to Great Britain. Most of the food which we are supplying to any part of Europe is going to Great Britain. I have no doubt that the amount of food supplied by this country has some bearing upon what the British are able to do to take care of the position in Germany. With the exception of wheat, and other small exceptions, all the food supplied by this country goes to Great Britain. Wheat is divided up among the different countries, but again most of it goes to Great Britain.

Mr. COLDWELL: That food is passed on to the British zone under British responsibility?

Mr. GARDINER: Whatever food is passed on goes that way, except what is arranged for through the cereals committee which meets from time to time in Washington and determines what division is to be made of the different cereals. Then there is another committee which divides up the other food, and our food goes to wherever it is allotted.

#### SUGGESTED DIVERSION OF FREIGHT CARS FOR MOVEMENT OF WHEAT TO EUROPE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. E. WRIGHT (Melfort): Has the government given any consideration to diverting more freight cars for the movement of wheat to meet the immediate need for food in Europe which has just been outlined?

Hon. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Minister of Transport): The movement of freight cars loaded with wheat is far better now than it

[Mr. MacInnis.]

has been at any other time. I know my colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon), will confirm my statement when I say that within the last month or so the movement has far exceeded the priority agreed upon between the wheat board and the railways during the winter months. In fact, it is well above the 1,200 cars per day mark.

#### REPORTED CHANGE IN PRICE OF BACON ON BRITISH MARKET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. K. R. DANIEL (Oxford): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture what effect the recent announcement in the press in regard to the revision in the price of bacon on the British market will have on the Canadian producers of bacon?

Right Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I did not read the press all through this morning so I do not know what my hon. friend is referring to.

Mr. DANIEL: This morning's press carried a report that Mr. Strachey had made an announcement of a change in the price of bacon.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

##### WHARF FACILITIES AT NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works, arising out of a telegram which I received just before coming into the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. GILLIS: When hon. members are through laughing I will continue in this free and unfettered parliament. This wire is from the president of the board of trade, an important person, in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, and it points out that the harbour facilities there are closed out because of a lack of wharfage. Can the minister tell the house when his department intends to proceed with the building of the wharf which I understand he has in mind for that particular port?

Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Minister of Public Works): I have not received any notice of the question, because the hon. member received his telegram only a moment ago. He would not expect me to answer such a question offhand. I will take this as a notice and give the answer tomorrow.