

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Friday, July 17, 1942

The house met at three o'clock.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT

Fifth report of special committee on land settlement of veterans of the present war.—Mr. Macmillan.

WHEAT

TABLING OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT SIGNED AT WASHINGTON

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I wish to take this opportunity of tabling three copies in English and French of the recent exchange of notes dated April 24, May 20 and June 27, 1942, between the governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and the United States. This exchange of notes brings into effect as of June 27, 1942, the memorandum of agreement initialed at the final session of the wheat committee held at Washington between July 10, 1941 and April 22, 1942.

For the convenience of hon. members I suggest that the document be printed in *Votes and Proceedings*. There are about thirty type-written pages.

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): In view of this document being tabled to-day, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce having said yesterday that he might make a statement, is he prepared to make that statement now?

Mr. SPEAKER: That might come on the orders of the day.

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley) suggested yesterday that if the international wheat agreement should be tabled to-day I might make a

statement on it. In tabling the agreement the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has announced that it will be printed in the *Votes and Proceedings*, which I think obviates any necessity for any long statement on my part, particularly in view of the fact that some time ago a statement was given to the press which received very wide distribution in Canada. However, I might very briefly refer to a few of the important points covered in the agreement, for the benefit of other hon. members, perhaps not as diligent as the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, who may be inclined to follow it up.

The Washington wheat conference was held between Great Britain, Australia, Argentina, the United States and Canada. A convention was drafted which it is hoped will ultimately be agreed to between all wheat exporting and importing nations. Realizing that no general conference could be held at the present time or possibly for some time after the cessation of hostilities, the five nations participating in the Washington meetings have agreed to implement the terms of the convention as far as possible until it is ratified by all interested countries.

The main points of the convention agreed to be made operative between the five countries are:

The relief pool—article 6, page 6—of not less than 100,000,000 bushels of wheat: Canada, 25,000,000, the United Kingdom, 25,000,000, the United States, 50,000,000, and Argentina, Australia, Canada and the United States such further amounts as may be agreed.

Control of production—article 2, page 2—so as to not exceed domestic requirements plus the basic export quotas and maximum reserve stocks provided for in the convention.

Control of stocks—article 3, page 3—providing for Canadian year-end stocks of not less than 80,000,000 or more than 275,000,000 bushels.

Export control of wheat and flour—article 4, page 4—providing for Canada to have 40