

*Inquiries of the Ministry***POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS****IMPORTATION OF EGGS FROM HOLLAND—
POULTRY IMPORTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has his attention been drawn to a dispatch announcing the arrival of hundreds of cases of eggs from Holland, and has he any comment to make on it?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): The hon. member was kind enough to give notice of his question, and I have therefore had an opportunity of reading the article to which he refers.

I am advised that 1,300 cases of eggs, or 39,000 dozen, arrived in Montreal from Holland on May 4, and are now being regraded for distribution in Canada. This shipment brings the total importations of eggs since January 1, 1951, to 2,964 cases, or 88,920 dozen, of which 500 cases, or 15,000 dozen, were imported from Ireland, and 1,164 cases, or 34,920 dozen, were imported from the United States.

Storage stocks in Canada are low at the present time, due to a slight falling off in marketings and to heavy exports during the present season, which to date have totalled 172,000 cases, or 5,160,000 dozen; and further imports may be expected.

The position there, I think, is clear, namely, that we are exporting many more eggs than we are importing. There are certain reasons why eggs are being brought into certain communities.

Mr. Coldwell: Can the minister tell us to what countries the eggs were exported? Did they, by any chance, go to Holland?

Mr. Gardiner: I would greatly doubt it. I think most of them went to the United States.

While I am on my feet I should probably say this, because if I do not make this answer now, there will be another question: Poultry is also being imported, particularly into Winnipeg. That would indicate that probably the producers of poultry and eggs have overdone the cutting down on their production.

Mr. Fraser: Will the minister say where the poultry is coming from?

Mr. Gardiner: From the United States—from Minneapolis, mostly.

STRAWBERRIES**QUESTION AS TO IMPORTATIONS FROM HOLLAND**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. Philippe Picard (Bellechasse): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, based on a telegram

indicated that it was hoped that 27 million bushels of grain would be shipped from the lakehead during the month of April. As a matter of fact, 30 million bushels have been shipped, which is 3 million over the estimated April requirement.

Mr. Ross (Souris): From the lakehead, or to the lakehead?

Mr. Chevrier: From the lakehead, and down the river. Then I stated that the delivery of grain cars to Vancouver was not as satisfactory as the chairman of the Canadian wheat board hoped. I made that statement in April. Since then a considerable improvement has taken place. During the period April 23 to May 8 inclusive, the requirement of the wheat board for deliveries to Vancouver was approximately 2,800 cars, and the railways were able to deliver to Vancouver some 3,150 cars. At the same time, the over-all position during the same period—that is, April 23 to May 8—was well in keeping with the requirements indicated by the wheat board. Total loadings were 17,489 cars as against a requirement of 17,808 cars. The house can therefore see that the position is far better now than it has been at any other time since the inception of the difficulty.

Mr. Ross (Souris): It is still bad, though.

SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA**USE OF RADIOTELEPHONE ON SHIPS ON THE
GREAT LAKES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): I too have a question for the Minister of Transport; this seems to be one of his days. Apparently an agreement was reached yesterday between Canada and the United States concerning the regulation of the use of the radiotelephone on ships on the great lakes. Can the minister make a statement about that agreement, either today or in the near future; and also can he tell us whether it will mean legislation?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): A Canadian delegation and a United States delegation have been discussing for the last four days matters concerning the safety of life at sea with reference to the use of radio on the great lakes. They have reached agreement, but unfortunately it has not been possible for me to discuss this agreement with my colleagues in the cabinet. That will be done in the near future. Whether or not legislation will be required I am not able to say. I think it may, but certainly not at this session.