

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I have given my estimate of the probable marketings of wheat. The other figures having to do with the carry-over and the size of the crop are available. I could get the figures for my hon. friend or he could get them for himself just as easily. However, I shall be glad to get them.

COLUMBIA RIVERINQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF DAM
AT MICA CREEK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): May I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Since press reports have indicated that plans to commence construction of the Mica creek dam on the Columbia river are practically cut and dried, may I ask the minister if the international joint commission has in fact made any decision on the matter?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The hon. member was good enough to give me notice of his question. I had a reply but I do not have it with me. I will give it to him tomorrow, if he will accept my apologies.

FINANCE

CALLING OF THIRD AND FOURTH VICTORY LOANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance with reference to his statement of March 26 announcing the calling of the third and fourth victory loans, amounting to some \$2 billion. Can the minister say anything further as to refunding plans?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker. I am sure my hon. friend will appreciate that any answer I might give would have market implications. The announcement will be made in due course.

Mr. Macdonnell: May I ask the minister if he expects to be able to borrow at less than 3 per cent?

Mr. Abbott: That is another matter we will deal with in due course.

NATIONAL DEFENCEACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND IN
NEW BRUNSWICK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I sent notice of this question to the Minister of National Defence. I see he is not in his [Mr. Diefenbaker.]

place so I will ask the Associate Minister of National Defence. Is it the intention of the Department of National Defence to acquire additional land east of Camp Gagetown, across the Saint John river, known as the Jemseg and Grand lake area, for an air base or any other purpose? As I say, I sent the minister notice, but possibly the associate minister has not had notice and I would ask him to take the question as notice and give me an answer as soon as possible.

Hon. R. O. Campney (Associate Minister of National Defence): I was not aware that notice of this question had been given, but it is my general understanding—I speak subject to correction if I find the facts to be otherwise—that there is no intention on the part of the department to acquire additional land across the Saint John river from the Gagetown site.

Mr. Brooks: I should like to have a definite answer. These people are very much concerned and we would like to have a definite answer whether or not there is any such intention.

HOUSING

PROTECTION OF HOMES OF UNEMPLOYED

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works): On Thursday, March 25, in reply to a question by the hon. member for Peterborough relating to temporarily unemployed purchasers of houses from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, I gave a brief answer. Since then I have had queries from the hon. member for Welland and others and perhaps I should elaborate somewhat on the policy that is followed by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in such cases.

As I indicated on Thursday, the corporation is sympathetic to the plight of purchasers who find themselves temporarily out of work. If a purchaser is in difficulty because of unemployment or other circumstances beyond his control, it is usually possible for him to work out an arrangement with the local office of the corporation to relieve him of his temporary difficulty. Unfortunately there are purchasers who disregard the reminder notices of the corporation. When this happens it leaves the corporation with no alternative but to advise the purchaser of the corporation's intention to take action to cancel the agreement. I might say that there are very few cases indeed where the corporation has to resort to legal action. In 1953, out of 30,500 agreements for sale there were only three properties repossessed by the corporation.