

Questions

As an example, for many years advantage of this act has been taken by forage seed producers to obtain guaranteed bank loans which are used to finance storage and to assist them in obtaining the best possible market and the best possible price.

Another example of where this act has been used to good advantage is that of the apple growers' association of Rougemont which, through this act, have been able to finance the processing of that portion of their annual apple crop which could not be moved to advantage into the fresh market.

Last year the Ontario flue-cured tobacco growers' marketing board obtained assistance under this legislation in order to hold and process for export that portion of their crop that could not be sold through their regular auction procedure.

The department also enters into direct promotion work aimed at assisting the producer in the merchandising of his product. This assistance ranges from the activities of the consumer section of the department to direct financial aid on a shared basis to national organizations for promotional programs. For example, during the current year a direct grant is being provided to the red cherry institute to assist them in market promotion to meet a problem of surplus frozen cherries. Similar grants are or have been made to assist various other segments of the agricultural economy such as poultry, soft fruits, etc.

In the promotion of the sale of agricultural products officials of the departments of agriculture and trade and commerce work closely together in order that all opportunities for sales may be fully considered.

(c) The department administers various programs designed to permit producers and others to provide themselves with storage facilities adequate for their needs. Under these programs financial assistance has been provided for the construction of cold storage warehouses, potato warehouses, and for cheese curing rooms and cheese factory consolidation.

In the speech from the throne reference was made to the implementing of a program designed to insure the availability of storage facilities and continuity of supplies of feed grain to match the expanding requirements for livestock production, particularly in the areas of British Columbia and eastern Canada where supplies of feed grain are normally deficient. Work in developing this policy is progressing and the complete policy will be announced as soon as is feasible.

Under emergency situations other programs may be and have been implemented such as

[Mr. Pigeon.]

the starch diversion program in New Brunswick last year which was necessitated largely by the condition of the crop and lack of adequate on-farm storage facilities. Under this program some 620,000 barrels of potatoes were diverted to starch factories with federal assistance thus relieving a serious storage problem.

ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Question No. 259—Mr. Stewart:

1. In respect of what commodities was assistance given between April 1, 1961 and March 31, 1962, under the Agricultural Stabilization Act?

2. What was the amount of assistance given in the case of each of these commodities?

3. What was the amount of assistance given to producers in Nova Scotia in the case of each of these commodities?

4. Can the amounts referred to in part 3 above be broken down by counties and, if so, what is the breakdown?

Answer by: Mr. Jorgenson:

1 and 2. The annual report of the agricultural stabilization board for the fiscal year 1961-62, tabled on September 27, 1962, contains details of assistance given on all commodities under the Agricultural Stabilization Act for the period April 1, 1961 to March 31, 1962.

3. Detail, by provinces, of the amount of assistance given on each commodity is not available.

4. No.

*EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS

Question No. 262—Mr. Tucker:

What steps has the government taken in the year 1962 to protect our fishermen by extending the fishing limits reserved exclusively to Canadian fishermen?

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Exploratory talks on the subject have been continued with a number of countries, but so far no definite conclusion can be reported.

*NORTHUMBERLAND CONSULTANTS LIMITED

Question No. 265—Mr. Stewart:

1. On what date did the Department of Public Works retain each of the three firms of Langevin, Letendre and Monti, Canadian-British engineering consultants, and H. G. Acres and Company Limited, to make engineering studies designed to discover whether or not the construction of a P.E.I.-N.B. causeway is feasible?

2. On what date were these firms associated as Northumberland Consultants Limited?

3. On what date does the department expect to establish finally its agreement engaging Northumberland Consultants Limited?

4. Have these consultants begun their engineering studies at the site and, if so, on what aspects of the project have they been, and are they now at work?

5. Have the consultants indicated in any way when they expect to conclude their engineering studies?