

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. M. Macdonnell (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, it is hoped to sell wheat to various European countries. Hon. members will appreciate that under these conditions it would be inadvisable to give any information about the names of particular countries or the nature of the proposals. I think anyone who is really interested in selling wheat will realize the truth of what I have said.

Mr. Johnson (Kindersley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I assume the matter is under active consideration by the government, and I think that is the important point.

LEAD AND ZINC—STATEMENT ON U.S. TARIFF
COMMISSION HEARINGS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. M. Macdonnell (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Kootenay East asked a question with regard to the hearings on lead and zinc before the United States tariff commission. In my reply I referred to strong representations having been made by the government of Canada, and the hon. member then asked a supplementary question as follows:

May I ask the minister whether these governmental negotiations are being carried on at the present time? Are they following the matter up to the very last in order that this drastic action may not be taken?

The answer is that the matter continues to be pursued with the United States authorities with the utmost vigour.

STATEMENT ON REPORTED PURCHASES BY
ROUMANIAN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Medicine Hat directed a question to the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce in connection with a Roumanian delegation which was in Canada for several weeks up to about 10 days ago. As reported at page 2127 of *Hansard* he asked specifically these questions:

What Canadian products were purchased, and has the invitation been accepted?

That is the invitation of the Roumanians to return this visit.

If so, what will the mission attempt to buy or sell?

This agricultural delegation from Roumania was headed by the minister of agriculture for Roumania. In view of the fact that the Department of Agriculture arranged their trip in Canada it is perhaps more appropriate that

[Mr. Johnson (Kindersley).]

I should reply to the question than that the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce should do so.

This delegation was here for the purpose of seeing our methods of farming, and particularly to look into the types of the seeds, livestock and machinery which we have in this country and which might be suitable for use in Roumania. They travelled right across the country and formed a very favourable opinion. They were convinced of the fact that we had here in Canada a good many products which they could buy and make use of.

Whilst they were here they purchased a considerable quantity of hybrid seed corn. They had purchased some hybrid seed corn the year before, and had also purchased some from the United States. They found that our hybrid seed corn turned out better in Roumania than did the purchases they made from the United States. As a result, when they were here this year they purchased something like two and one-half times as much seed corn in Canada as they purchased in the United States on this trip.

They also purchased some hogs; in fact, they purchased a plane load of hogs which were immediately flown to Roumania. It is rather interesting in this connection that the ancestors of those particular hogs were secured from Sir Winston Churchill about four years ago. They also purchased some cattle, Herefords and Black Angus; some chickens and some machinery.

These are all in the nature of what you might call sample purchases. If they turn out to be satisfactory, as I am sure they will, the minister of agriculture for Roumania assured me that they would be back to make considerably larger purchases in future years.

As to the invitation which was issued for a similar delegation to go to Roumania, I assured him that we would consider the matter seriously, and I hope something along that line might be arranged.

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

REMOVAL OF THRESHOLD PROVISIONS OF ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. F. Brown (Essex West): I have a question, Mr. Speaker, and I am not sure whether it should be addressed to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It has two parts. When is it proposed to introduce legislation to remove the threshold provisions of the Unemployment Assistance Act of 1956? Have any advances been made to encourage the province of Ontario to accept the benefits of the said