

SEED PURCHASING COMMISSION

Mr. MILLAR:

1. What has been the cost by years of administering the Seed Purchasing Commission during the last five years?
2. What are the names of the members of that commission, and what remuneration has each received for each of the last five years?
3. What services to the state are performed by the commission?
4. What services are rendered by the seed branches of Winnipeg and Calgary?
5. How much of each of the various kinds of grain have been distributed in each of the last five years?
6. What kinds of grain, and how much of each is it proposed the commission shall distribute this calendar year?

Hon. Mr. MOTHERWELL:

1. 1918, \$28,614.86; 1919, \$28,905.52; 1920, \$21,553.61; 1921, \$9,890.39; 1922, \$9,188.92.

2.

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
A. E. Wilson ..	\$3,170	\$2,820	\$3,040	\$2,330	\$2,490
J. J. Mulvihill ..	2,344	2,536	2,720	2,800	2,800

(Mr. Wilson is paid at the rate of \$10 per day when employed).

3. The commission have purchased, assembled, stored, cleaned and distributed for cash, seed grain that has been inspected and graded according to the established grades for seed, in quantities each year to meet the estimated requirements of provincial and municipal governments, farmers' organizations and individuals in any part of Canada.

4. The district inspection and laboratory staffs, having headquarters at Winnipeg and Calgary, each year determine so far as possible the areas in their respective districts within which the supply of seed for any kind of crop may be deficient or of inferior quality, due to drought, rust, hail, frost, insect pests or other causes; determine or estimate the amount of the shortage for each kind of grain and ascertain the areas from which a supply of good seed grain to meet the requirements may be economically obtained; inspect, test and grade seed grain and other seeds for commerce, including all seeds purchased and sold by the Seed Purchasing Commission; enforce the Seed Control, Feeding Stuffs and Fertilizers' Acts.

5.

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	500,620	2,181,445	1,040,270	41,990	37,624
Oats	2,386,250	1,734,870	1,287,631	113,000	654,500
Barley	87,645	31,442	17,197	892	4,031
Rye .. ..	.....	11,840	2,769	.....	.....
Corn	10,380	2,519	.....	.....	.....
Peas	3,656	41,376	.....	.....	.....
Beans	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....

6. The reports received from the inspectional districts would seem to indicate that there

does not exist in any part of Canada a seed shortage of a nature sufficiently serious to render activities this year on the part of the Seed Purchasing Commission a matter of necessity. It is known that there is a substantial number of farmers located in east-central Alberta who may have difficulty in securing their requirements of seed grain because of their inability to obtain credit. There is, nevertheless, in adjoining districts plentiful supplies of seed grain, of all kinds, that are being held for sale for seeding purposes by individual farmers, farmers' organizations and seed and grain merchants, a great deal of which seed grain has already been tested and graded for commerce and is available at a cost estimated to be less than the Seed Purchasing Commission would have to charge for the same grain because of having the additional expense of freighting and elevator charges.

EIGHT HOUR DAY

Mr. NEILL:

1. What steps, if any, have been taken by the government towards calling a conference of all the provinces on the eight hour law recommended by Article 427 of the Treaty of Versailles?
2. If any invitation was issued by the federal authorities what was the response from the different provinces?
3. What further action is contemplated by the government towards getting the provinces together on this matter?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK:

1. The labour principles set out in Article 427 of the Treaty of Versailles, including that which urges the adoption of the eight-hour day or 48-hour week as "the standard to be aimed at where it has not already been attained," were made a subject of consideration between the federal and provincial governments at the National Industrial Conference which was held in Ottawa in September, 1919. All of the nine provincial governments were also represented at the first session of the International Labour Conference in Washington in October-November, 1919, at which a draft convention was adopted on the subject of the eight-hour day and 48-hour week and submitted to the various countries, including Canada, which comprise the membership of the League of Nations. The views of the provincial representatives on the eight-hour day were also obtained in consultation with the federal delegates in attendance at the Washington conference. The federal government, in connection with the Dominion-provincial conference which was held in Ottawa in September last for consideration of the unemployment situation, proposed that attention should also be given to other industrial and social questions which had been