

of trading to-day and to continue until further notice. This action is taken as a temporary measure pending a full discussion with the government.

This action means that until further notice it is not permissible to trade in the Winnipeg futures market at less than the prices mentioned, namely, May 70 $\frac{3}{8}$, July 71 $\frac{3}{8}$, October 73 $\frac{3}{8}$. It should be made clear that trading may proceed normally at or above these prices.

On Saturday, May 11, May wheat closed in Winnipeg, at 89 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents. On Saturday, May 18, May wheat sold as low as 60 $\frac{3}{8}$. The break in the Chicago wheat futures market has been even more drastic, their May wheat closing on Saturday, May 11 at \$1.08 $\frac{3}{8}$ and trading as low as 76 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents on Saturday, May 18.

While several factors have entered into the situation it seems clear that the changed war picture has been a predominant influence in the decline in commodity and securities markets. The fear of lost markets and the general financial unsettlement have created a feeling of uncertainty and resulted in general and drastic liquidation on the part of holders of wheat. In addition to the liquidation mentioned there has been considerable selling by exporters against contracts which were cancelled on account of the purchasing countries becoming involved in the war. It is needless to say that the Canadian wheat board took no action which would in any way aggravate the situation.

This whole matter is now the subject of discussions between the wheat committee of the cabinet and the Canadian wheat board.

INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM PAYMENTS ON 1939 CROP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ROBERT FAIR (Battle River): As the group with which I am associated has already officially requested that an interim payment be made on the 1939 wheat crop, and according to a press report of March 21 last the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, speaking at Wilkie, Saskatchewan, promised that the Liberal government, if returned at the pending election, would introduce amendments to the wheat board act providing that an interim payment of ten to twelve cents a bushel would be made on the 1939 wheat crop, I would ask the government whether this payment will be made under an amendment to the wheat board legislation or under the War Measures Act.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The question might be allowed to stand as a question on the order paper.

[Mr. J. A. MacKinnon.]

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

SUGGESTED INTERNMENT OF ENEMY SYMPATHIZERS—COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE OF CANADA REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). The attorney general of Ontario has proposed that subversive elements in Canada should be placed in internment camps, in the same manner as alien enemies. I believe this proposal has been made to the minister, and that he has stated he would make a statement in the house. Is the minister prepared to make such a statement in the house to-day, or if not, when?

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): I am pleased to say that I am in a position to make a statement which will answer my hon. friend's question.

The Hon. G. D. Conant, attorney general of Ontario, wrote to me under date of May 14, 1940, respecting subversive activities and the defence of Canada regulations. As, however, his letter was given to and published by the press, I think it appropriate that I should make a statement to the house; so I anticipated the wishes of my hon. friend.

Mr. Conant suggests in effect that all persons, whether British or aliens, who are accused of subversive activities be detained without trial, but subject to what amounts to an appeal, under the authority of an order of the Minister of Justice, in the same manner as enemy aliens are detained.

I may point out that the position of the two classes, that is, offenders against certain regulations, and enemy aliens, is entirely different. In the case of enemy aliens their nationality is known and a trial is not necessary or desirable. In the case of those in the other class it is essential, under the present regulations and under our system of justice, that, subject possibly to exceptions in particular cases, they should be proven guilty in a court of law in the usual manner. The regulations contemplate and provide for this procedure.

The powers contained in regulation 21, referred to by Mr. Conant, would under the present regulations be exercised by the Minister of Justice only with regard to persons other than enemy aliens and exceptional cases or where an emergency or extraordinary situation existed and no other appropriate or effective procedure was available.

It may be, however, that an amendment to the regulations might be desirable whereby after conviction in the trial court bail would be prohibited and thus the convicted person would not be at liberty pending any appeal