

Bermuda landed in Vancouver there has been discovered the potato moth, which is destructive alike to tobacco and potatoes. In view of the fact that local entomologists and growers view with alarm the prospect of this moth entering Canada, I would ask if the minister would take steps to have this shipment held up with a view to ascertaining just how serious the situation is.

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): Every precaution will be taken, if such is the case, to prevent the shipment being landed. I understand that the dominion entomologists have the matter in hand.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. L. DUGUAY (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) if the statement contained in a telegram which I received is correct. This telegram is in French, the translation being:

Has Ottawa authorized Quebec to reduce allocation for wood of seventy-five cents per week. Answer immediately.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour): The administration of relief is entirely in the hands of the provincial government, and the answer to the hon. gentleman's question is, no.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF MILK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (East Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inquire of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) whether his attention has been drawn to the milk situation in the city of Hamilton. At present, serious conflict exists in the distribution of milk between the Borden Company and a cooperative organization. Will the minister look into this situation with a view to protecting the interests of the producers and the consumers?

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): The answer is, yes.

#### RAILWAY SERVICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. MICHAUD (Restigouche-Madawaska): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inquire of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) if his attention has been directed to the fact that the business of the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific

Railway in the city of Fredericton is being amalgamated with the idea of closing the station of the Canadian National Railways?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways): This matter has not been drawn to my attention. I might mention that no station can be closed or any action taken as to united operations or the closing of branch lines without first being submitted to the Board of Railway Commissioners. Such action is open to appeal by interested parties.

#### BANK ACT AMENDMENT

##### CONDITIONS GOVERNING TEN YEAR EXTENSION OF BANK CHARTERS

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill No. 18, respecting banks and banking.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it was originally the intention to proceed to-day with the second reading of this bill and, if time permitted, with the second reading of Bill No. 19, to incorporate the Bank of Canada. However, in deference to the views expressed last evening by the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe), it is not proposed that we shall proceed with the latter bill. There is nothing that I care to add to the observations I made on the introduction of this bill. My purpose in rising to-day is to express the hope that the second reading of this bill may be expedited in order that it may be sooner available for the consideration of the committee on banking and commerce.

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): Mr. Speaker, I am entirely in agreement with the wishes of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) with regard to the expediting of the second reading of this bill and I assure him that as far as we on this side are concerned there is no desire to delay it at all. We are anxious to get down to what might be regarded as the work of the session.

As I understand it, this bill arises not only out of the fact that the Bank Act provides for a decennial renewal of bank charters but also because certain recommendations have been made in the report of the Macmillan commission, referred to the other evening by the minister. As I understand it, the terms of reference to this commission did not specifically charge it with the obligation of recommending amendments to the Bank Act, but there is a provision in the reference, quoted by the chairman in the introductory portion of the report, which reads:

... to study the entire monetary system of Canada, particularly in relation to commodity