

*Inquiries of the Ministry***WATER POLLUTION****NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—INQUIRY
AS TO PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. Campbell (The Battlefords): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister received a request from any provincial premier for a western provincial conference with the federal government to discuss the pollution of the North Saskatchewan river? If so, when will such a conference be held?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no letter has been received from any provincial premier requesting a provincial-federal meeting to consider the pollution of the North Saskatchewan river. The premier of Saskatchewan did forward, or at least we received three copies of certain resolutions adopted by the legislative assembly of Saskatchewan in which it was requested:

That this assembly urges the government of Canada to take cognizance of the health hazard and inconvenience which Saskatchewan citizens living along the course of the North Saskatchewan river have suffered as a result of the pollution of this stream . . .

That is all we have received in that connection.

TRADE**LIMITATION ON EXPORTS OF BASE METALS
TO UNITED STATES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if negotiations are proceeding in any form between the government of Canada and the United States with respect to the possible limitation of export by Canada of base metals to the United States; if so, what stage these negotiations have reached and what position the Canadian government is taking?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there are no such negotiations current at the present time.

WHEAT**INCREASE IN PRICE AT HEAD OF THE LAKES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Bryson (Humboldt-Melfort): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Does the minister intend to raise the price of wheat by seven cents a bushel at the head of the lakes, as he indicated he would do when lake shipping was resumed this spring?

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Trade and Commerce does not set the price of wheat. That is the function of the wheat board. However, it might interest my hon. friend to know that the price of wheat at Fort William has advanced by four cents a bushel over the last two or three weeks.

SUPERANNUATED CIVIL SERVANTS**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PURPOSE OF SURVEY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) which he might like to take as notice if he does not have the information immediately available. Can the minister tell the house what change in the civil servants' superannuation regulations makes it necessary to conduct a survey of retired civil servants, demanding information on any employment they may have, their rates of pay, and their periods of employment?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend was good enough to send notice of this question to my office, but I received it just before entering the house. I will take this as notice and attempt to give an answer tomorrow.

SUPPLY

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

**DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ON CON-
STITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I propose to avail myself of the opportunity presented by this motion to deal with a subject which was mentioned earlier, and which has received fresh emphasis since we met here just under two weeks ago.

Within that time there have been a number of statements and events which have impressed the necessity for some definite steps being taken to bring together at the earliest possible date the government of Canada and the governments of the provinces in order to deal with these matters which are causing concern, not only to the members of the different legislative bodies, but to the people of Canada generally.

As an example of the kind of statement to which I refer, there was a speech made by the minister charged with the responsibility for civil defence in which he dealt with the