

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, consideration has been given to that question and I hope it will be possible to make a motion to that effect at a very early date.

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Acting Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice will be back on Monday, and as he has taken this decision himself he will be in a position to give an answer upon his return.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

REPORTED PRINTING OF APPLICATION FORMS IN UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour arising out of complaints I have received from unemployed persons to the effect that certain application forms for unemployment insurance are printed in the United States. Would the minister comment as to whether or not that is correct, and as to whether any steps have been taken to have these forms printed in our own country?

**Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour):** That is correct, Mr. Speaker, and it is no surprise to me. We have recently installed a mechanical processing system in our prairie regional office located in Winnipeg. This office processes all claims for the prairie provinces, and the object of putting in a mechanical punch card system was to eliminate delays.

After some early difficulties were experienced the system is now beginning to operate satisfactorily, and it is estimated that it will result in a considerable saving of time. The system is a Remington Rand installation, and unfortunately the forms necessary for its operation are not as yet being made in Canada. Therefore they must be obtained in the United States. It is expected that when the system has achieved more widespread acceptance in this country these forms will be produced in Canada. I, as much as the hon. member for Assiniboia or any other hon. member of this house, am very conscious of the desirability of endeavouring to have as many as possible of our forms printed in Canada.

**DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

INQUIRY AS TO MEETING ON R.C.M.P. AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Acting Minister of Justice is now in a position to reply to the question I asked him on Wednesday regarding the proposed and now postponed meeting between the Minister of Justice and the attorneys general of the provinces in regard to contracts with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

[Mr. Howard.]

**SUPPLY**

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Rea in the chair.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Administration branch—

1. Departmental administration, including advisory committee on agricultural services, \$747,531.

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Chairman, when speaking on this item yesterday I was trying to ascertain why there exists a discrepancy between the views of a western delegation which recently visited Ottawa and the views of certain western members.

The situation of agriculture in Ontario is not favourable. The farm union in a brief presented just a few weeks ago pointed out that the position has deteriorated again this year in terms of net income. By using dominion bureau of statistics figures they point out that in the last year the net income of the farmer increased by only \$9 over the previous year, while at the same time the gross income increased by something over \$1,000. Therefore when we hear the Minister of Agriculture quoting gross figures for western Canada as the total Canadian farm income, in terms of net income I think we can be sceptical about the farmer's position being anything near what it was in previous years.

One of the problems which face agriculture in eastern Canada is this matter of vertical integration. I would suggest that one of the reasons vertical integration has become so important is the fact that farm credit has been restricted in recent years. A few years ago a small farmer who was in the mixed farming industry would go to the bank and borrow enough money to buy a carload of feeder cattle from western Canada, or he would go to the feed company and make arrangements for a year's supply or six months' supply of feed on credit. He now finds this impossible. He cannot borrow the money from the bank to buy feeder cattle because the bank maintains this is not a stable investment, that it is quite a risk, and the banks are not willing to lend money at a reasonable rate of interest on that type of loan. When he goes to the feed company he also finds that the feed company is under this tight money policy that the banks have instituted, and it cannot get enough money to carry its credit and therefore it will not extend this type of credit to the farmer.