

BRANTFORD, ONT.—RE-EMPLOYMENT OF
CELANESE PLANT WORKERS**Question No. 252—Mr. Brown:**

Has the government any plan for the re-employment of the 250 workers thrown out of employment by the closing of the Canadian Celanese Limited plant at Brantford, Ontario, announced last week?

Answer by: Mr. Hales:

It has been reported that to date 28 employees have been laid off by the Canadian Celanese Ltd., Brantford, and that another 30 to 35 workers may be laid off during the week of October 15. Workers laid off are being registered by the Brantford office of the national employment service, and every effort is being made to re-establish these workers in jobs in Brantford, or in other locations.

I might add that in addition to the efforts of the local national employment office to find other employment for those laid off, five projects under the winter works incentive program have been authorized to date in the Brantford area at a total cost of \$140,000. The federal government's share is \$33,625. These projects are providing employment for some 43 men for 4,000 man-days. It is expected, of course, that other projects will be started as the program develops.

We are also supporting an active program of training for unemployed in the Brantford area under program 5 of the technical and vocational training agreement. At last report it included courses as follows:

For men: Commercial, commercial art, electronics, machine shop, small engines and welding.

For women: Commercial and commercial art.

Auto mechanics and machine operators have also been trained and the facilities can be expanded in accord with the demand.

ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CANADA FARMERS

Question No. 254—Mr. Caouette:

What steps does the government intend to take with respect to eastern Canada farmers (a) when there is a crop failure (b) when they cannot sell their produce (c) when they lose their produce due to lack of storage facilities?

Answer by: Mr. Pigeon:

While new policies with respect to agriculture will be announced at appropriate times certain steps have already been taken and legislation introduced to meet the various situations outlined in the question. Some of these are:

(a) In 1959 the Crop Insurance Act became effective. Under the provisions of this act the responsibility for the institution and administration of insurance schemes to protect

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farmers against all types of risks lies with the provinces with the federal government making significant contributions towards the administration and operation of any such programs. These contributions are as follows:

- (1) 50 per cent of administrative expenses.
- (2) Up to 20 per cent of the premiums paid.

The federal government enters into agreement to loan to provinces any funds that may be necessary to meet losses over and above a reserve fund, premium receipts, and \$200,000.

In addition the federal government has provided financial assistance to provinces on a shared basis to assist them in meeting emergency crop loss situations. An example is the assistance given to farmers suffering losses due to fusarium rot.

(b) The Agricultural Stabilization Act, which was assented to in 1958, is designed to protect farmers against severe drops in the prices of the commodities they sell. Under this act the price of nine mandatory commodities—cattle, hogs, sheep, butter, cheese, eggs, and wheat, oats and barley produced in areas not coming under the Canadian Wheat Board Act—must be supported at not less than 80 per cent of the average price received by producers during the previous ten years. In addition, the act makes provision for the support of any agricultural commodity at any level that may be approved by the governor general in council. During the present year 17 commodities have been or are under support at various levels ranging up to 109 per cent of the base price. These commodities are:

Butter, cheese, eggs, hogs, steers, lambs, wool, honey, milk for manufacturing, soybeans, sunflower seed, sugar beets, turkeys, potatoes. Wheat, oats, barley, produced in those areas not coming under the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

Under the provisions of this act any agricultural products may be purchased, thus providing a market for produce that cannot otherwise be sold at a satisfactory level. The major purchase program in effect at the present time is that associated with dairy products. However, the agricultural stabilization board has from time to time bought large quantities of various commodities depending upon the need for support of this type.

A further form of assistance that may be provided to farmers who are experiencing difficulties in selling their produce is provided by the Co-operative Marketing Act. Under this act an agreement may be entered into with groups of producers under which the government guarantees loans in order to permit the producers to receive an initial payment upon delivery while the produce is being stored or processed, thus enabling a more orderly and effective manner of marketings.