

Inquiries of the Ministry

industry involves over 8,000 growers or about 10,000 acres of well cultivated land in Ontario. The growers are in a position to sell their product to the United Kingdom at a price—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Has the hon. member asked his first question, and is this a second question?

Mr. Cardiff: I have a second question.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I regret to say that I have not received a progress report from my department. I shall be glad to inquire and I hope to give the hon. gentleman a report tomorrow, and to consider very carefully the further representations he was in the process of making, of which he was good enough to give me a copy.

POWER**NEW BRUNSWICK—POSSIBLE DELAY IN GRANT FOR MACTAQUAC DEVELOPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I should like to answer a question asked on Friday by the hon. member for Cumberland, who asked a similar question somewhat earlier of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said he would draw it to my attention, and I must apologize to the hon. member for Cumberland for not answering it at the end of last week.

I have given very careful consideration to, and I have discussed with the officials of the Atlantic development board, the question of whether we would be warranted in asking for a reassessment of the decision of the Atlantic development board to assist the Mactaquac power development project in New Brunswick. I might say the board, in its initial examination of the project prior to recommending assistance, considered this project in the context of all potential power sources in the region, having regard to considerations of price, quantity, reliability and the time by which the increased amounts of power could be made available.

The Mactaquac project will come into operation by 1968, by which time the large block that will become available from the project will be urgently required in New Brunswick. It seems to me that in the light of these facts it would be wrong for the Atlantic development board or for this government to take any initiative in this matter, having regard particularly to the fact

[Mr. Cardiff.]

there is no other known source of power that could be available as early as 1968 for use in the area.

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the Minister of Transport could indicate whether Premier Smallwood has requested the Atlantic development board for assistance or to do anything about the \$20 million that has been allocated for assistance for Baie d'Espoir?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, he has not. I would think, sir, it would be very unwise to have any delay in either of these power projects. We were satisfied, before recommending these very considerable grants, that power from both of them was going to be needed at the time the power would be developed. If the Hamilton scheme should be successful, and I certainly hope it will be, it will depend, of course, upon the export of a very considerable quantity of power to the United States, and the fact that we have this additional power from Baie d'Espoir and Mactaquac will mean we will have that much more developed wealth by that time. I am sure all Canadians, and particularly all members of the house from the Atlantic provinces, will rejoice to know that we will have.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I was going to ask the minister if he had a pleasant visit with the premier of Newfoundland over the week end.

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, I had a very pleasant visit, and I had an opportunity of attending a dinner given by the government of Newfoundland to the general council of the United Church, which was one of the finest functions I have ever attended in my life. However, it hardly seems to be very relevant to the business before the house.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): May I ask a supplementary question on a political rather than a religious note. Is the Atlantic development board assisting in the survey being conducted with regard to the Hamilton Falls project through the maritimes, and if not would the Atlantic development board assist in this survey? I am sure it is costly to Mr. Smallwood, and it might accelerate the survey if the Atlantic development board could be involved because it is a type of project the Atlantic development board was set up for originally.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am sure the Atlantic development board would have been glad to consider a request for assistance for this