

*British Children*

documents which I shall send later to the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson). First there is a communication from the High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This communication dated June 5, 1940, states:

Dominion office state that question of evacuation of internees has now, for various reasons, become very urgent. In the circumstances they would be grateful to receive the Canadian government's decision on the point at earliest possible date and in advance of any decisions on refugees and children.

Then subsequently, on June 13 there is a further communication from the High Commissioner for Canada to Great Britain to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as follows:

Ministry of shipping, after considerable discussion, have agreed to the use of troopships for any returning civilian personnel we desire to send thereon, though they state that service regulations here restrict such passages to personnel whose passage is paid for by the government. We can, therefore, use these ships for evacuee children, stranded Canadians, wives and dependants of officials being repatriated at the government's expense and wives and dependants of officers paying their own expenses. Arrangements regarding issue of tickets, assembly of passengers and transportation to ships has had to be made by this office. Understand that Ministry of Shipping may request us also to send internees on ships in question. This might complicate arrangements regarding evacuee children if these were ready for first convoy which will be end of this month or beginning of next. Feel, however, that evacuation schemes will not be completed by then.

These two communications make it perfectly clear that it was the wish of the British government that as between interned aliens and evacuees priority should be given in the order indicated here.

I have another dispatch in my hand which I shall permit the leader of the opposition to read, because it indicates that when, in explaining the situation the other day, I made reference to this order of preference, I did to some extent embarrass the British government in relation to British internees in Germany, in making any reference to German internees coming to Canada before the German government had been advised, through neutral channels, of the fact by the British government. I mention that only to indicate how very much embarrassed one in my position is when, not having one's word accepted with respect to actual facts governing the case, he has to disclose information prematurely or submit to misrepresentations of his position.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): I hope my right hon. friend will acquit me of having any desire to misrepresent [Mr. Mackenzie King.]

him. The fact of the matter was that I had received information of a very reliable kind, from Montreal, that passenger ships were arriving on this side half empty. It did seem to me to be a pity that the opportunity should be lost of bringing some of these people over here. I was actuated solely by humanitarian considerations and had no thought of any other question being involved. I certainly had no desire to impugn the honour of the Prime Minister.

## MINIMUM WHEAT PRICES

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT TO DISCUSS MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, under standing order 31 I desire to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the government taken to establish minimum prices for certain grades of cash wheat in store Fort William and Port Arthur, to December 31, 1940.

Mr. SPEAKER: While the hon. member must take the responsibility for making the motion, yet according to our rules he must make a prima facie case that there is that question of urgency, to which objection might be taken by other hon. members. I would ask that the hon. gentleman give the reasons for the urgency of such a motion.

Mr. PERLEY: The action will involve the disposal of one of the largest crops we have ever had in western Canada as well as of the 1940 crop up to the end of the present calendar year. I think that is a matter of urgent importance. It involves the present situation, and a change of policy without notice being given to the public or to this parliament is a matter that should be discussed here and now. The public wants to know the government's policy, especially in view of the announcement which, I am informed, was made yesterday on the Winnipeg grain exchange instead of in this house. Last night I was called by a press man in respect to an inquiry he had received from Wall street as to the action taken by the government on the grain exchange yesterday. It is that matter that I want to discuss.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Resort to the procedure which my hon. friend has adopted is restricted not only to matters of special urgency but to matters which cannot be discussed in any other way. I would refer your honour to paragraph 244 of Beauchesne, under standing order 31:

Motion for adjournment regarding matters for the discussion of which the committee of supply