

Inquiries of the Ministry

subsidy for wheat to be milled into flour than for wheat shipped direct. The purpose of the 8 cents was to offset that added subsidy for certain markets and thus put our farmers in a competitive position.

Mr. Victor Quelch (Acadia): I wish to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is not the result of this new policy that the Canadian farmer would have to compete with the United States treasury?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Well, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that he has been competing with the United States treasury for some time—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):—and with some success, I might say; nevertheless the competition of the United States treasury has been present and a large factor indeed for some two or three years.

REPORTED DIVERSION OF CANADIAN WHEAT FROM
RUSSIA TO EGYPT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): May I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if the Canadian government has any evidence bearing on the statement recently appearing in the press that Canadian wheat sold to Russia is finding its way to Egypt?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The last Canadian wheat sold to Russia was shipped in June of last year. I would think it very probable that that particular wheat was consumed months ago. I have no information that Canadian wheat has been shipped from Russia to Egypt. Our wheat was shipped into Vladivostok, which is the point in Russia most distant from Egypt. I think all the circumstances would point to the fact that the suggested transaction is not possible.

POLAND—NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING SALE OF
WHEAT AND CREDIT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. With reference to the negotiations between Canada and Poland for the sale of wheat, will the minister inform the house as to the credit terms which are under discussion and what differences of opinion in regard to these exist between officials of his department and officials of the Department of Finance?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, when negotiations are current between two countries it is not customary to announce any of the

[Mr. Howe (Port Arthur).]

particulars. When the negotiations are completed I shall be glad to indicate what the outcome has been.

[Later:]

LEAD AND ZINC—STATEMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF
TARIFF INCREASES BY UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I directed a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce who was not here and his parliamentary assistant said I might get an answer today. My question had reference to the strenuous efforts being made by base metal producers in the United States to bring about an increase in the tariff on Canadian base metals, lead and zinc particularly, imposed by the federal government of the United States. I asked whether any representations had been made to the United States government against an increase in the tariff as it would be very injurious to our Canadian producers.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the first threat of added tariffs against lead and zinc by the United States occurred some 18 months ago. At that time the Canadian government made urgent and high level protests, and at least partly as a result of those protests no change in the tariff was instituted. Instead, the government of the United States introduced a policy of buying lead and zinc for the government stockpile. That practice has been maintained up to this time. We are making inquiries through our Washington office with respect to whether there is any new move toward increasing the duties on lead and zinc. If there are indications of serious threats we will, of course, renew our protests, but I believe that the Canadian position on that particular point is already well established in Washington.

Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte): I should like to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In the minister's opinion, is it unusual for a member of the official opposition to promote the sale of Canadian raw materials in the United States?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is not a question that should have been asked.

SALMON—EFFECT OF JAPAN-U.K. AGREEMENT
ON CANADA'S EXPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I should like to direct a question either to the Minister of Trade and Commerce or the Minister of Fisheries. I have not given notice, so they