

1942 only by approximately two and a half millions of bushels, and in view of the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture on January 29 that there is no assurance that flax seed from an additional acreage in Canada can be disposed of in 1943—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member must realize that it is absolutely impossible for the minister to answer that question. The hon. member should put it on the order paper to enable it to be properly answered.

Mr. BENCE: I am asking the minister to make a statement because of the facts. The urgency of the situation would not permit of my putting the question on the order paper.

Mr. ILSLEY: On a point of order, the hon. gentleman quoted an answer I made relating to the flax crushing capacity of North America. At the time I gave the answer I qualified it by saying that I could take no responsibility nor could this government take any responsibility for the United States figures.

Mr. BENCE: Quite right. I wish to finish the question, if I may. Will the Minister of Agriculture make a statement as soon as possible to clear up the whole situation and advise the farmers what is expected of them in this respect?—

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I made a statement on December 9, and I made another statement about the middle of January. In the latter statement I said to the farmers of Canada that before seeding time a final announcement would be made with regard to the flax situation. I think that is the explanation which is required.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

INQUIRY AS TO REFERENCE OF ANNUAL REPORT TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. E. WRIGHT (Melfort): On February 24 I addressed a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce regarding the reference of the annual report of the wheat board to the committee on agriculture. He stated that he was referring it to them. How soon will that report be released so that we shall have a chance to discuss the marketing policy of the wheat board for this season.

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I will take any formal [Mr. Bence.]

steps necessary to have the annual report of the wheat board referred to the agriculture committee immediately.

THE BUDGET

DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 2, consideration of the motion of Hon. J. L. Ilsley (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

Mr. J. H. HARRIS (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people, all of whom are interested in the gigantic struggle which is being waged at the present time, are thinking about what is taking place here, and all of them undoubtedly studied and gave a good deal of thought to the budget brought down by our Minister of Finance, when they read for the first time his statement that the economic and financial requirements of war become greater and more exacting as the scope and thoroughness of our plans grow. On reading this statement a second time they may have thought to themselves, is the scope of the plans growing as fast and with all the intensity that it should grow? Is the thoroughness of the plans as complete as the capacity of the Canadian people to make them thorough?

An hon. MEMBER: Louder.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): My hon. friend is worrying about my remarks not being sufficiently loud. Some day the end of the world will come; the angel Gabriel will descend from the heavens and, placing one foot on the land and one foot on the waters, will say that earth shall be no more. And my hon. friend will say "Louder!"

The fifth war-time budget, even though it exceeds all other budgets and all previous standards, even though it makes provision for expenditures on a scale never before known in Canada, still leaves room for even greater achievements of which I believe the Canadian people are capable. I am satisfied that they can rise to greater heights in this emergency if they are made to realize the necessity of greater industry, greater thrift and more provident living. As I see it, each of us in this chamber has a direct responsibility to the Canadian people if we are to face up to these tasks. Last year's budget did bring our people very sharply to their senses. The measures contained in last year's budget made the people realize that our freedom was at stake, that Canada would be in jeopardy if we