

tionship with the U.S.S.R. with regard to the sale of wheat is now in a very strong position indeed.

WHEAT—PAYMENT FOR STORAGE ON FARMS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I should like to ask the minister whether, in order to assist the government in the consideration of the many possibilities before it, he would give consideration to amending the notice of motion which appears in his name on the Order Paper so that the committee might have the opportunity to recommend to the government its views in connection with paying storage on farm stored grain.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Hon. members will recognize, I believe, that this is a distinct question unrelated to the motion on the order paper. But I shall certainly consider whether it would be useful to have that subject referred to the committee.

WHEAT—EXTENSION OF ONE-BUSHEL QUOTA TO ALL SHIPPING POINTS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): In view of the fact that the present crop year is now five months old and that only 176 shipping points in the whole area under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board have received a one-bushel quota, can the minister advise the House whether the board has any projected date by which the remaining shipping points will be on a one-bushel quota?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): The board has no specific target date for arriving at a one-bushel quota or, indeed, at any specific quota across the whole region in a uniform way. Uniformity is, of course, a desirable objective along with other objectives. There is a program in effect to move grain as quickly as is reasonable in the course of the winter months out of the region to the east and, as fast as is required, to the west. This should bring about a fairly rapid advance in quotas during that period.

Mr. Korchinski: I believe the minister referred to the so-called block system which is apparently not producing the desired results, as was just indicated a few moments ago, in that only 176 points are on a one-bushel quota at this time. Will the minister at some future date after the Christmas recess make a statement on motions so as to make it clear what is really happening in connection with this whole system?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lang: I shall certainly be very glad at least to meet with the hon. member and explain to him how well, in fact, the block system is working. It was never expected that the block system would move more wheat out of the country than any other system. The whole point of the block system is to make the most efficient use of available equipment in moving wheat within the country.

PENSIONS

RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS—INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board, Mr. Speaker? In view of the action of the government of Ontario in granting substantial increases in the pensions of its retired civil servants, and in view of the concern for federal superannuates felt by members of all parties in this House, will the government now consider taking action to increase the pensions of federal superannuates?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): As the hon. member is, I think, aware, intensive discussions and consultations are now taking place on this very subject.

AGRICULTURE

PLANS TO CHECK DECREASE IN FARM INCOME

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. It deals with published reports showing a continuing and alarming drop in farm income, which in fact amounted to 3 per cent last year. Can the minister say whether the government has any new plans to check this serious trend?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member and to the minister that the information now being sought is of the type which would normally be given to the House by way of a statement on motions.

Mr. Danforth: May I rephrase my question and simply ask the minister whether the government is aware of this trend?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

REFUND OF TAX COLLECTED IN QUEBEC

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question