

Easter Adjournment

had no opportunity to discuss these proposals and regulations. The policy was announced on March 12, and it was discussed briefly on March 27. The regulations were distributed in our mail-boxes on the afternoon of April 2. So far as my own constituents are concerned, this is the gravest problem which confronts them, and I am absolutely opposed to leaving this house until we have had an opportunity of discussing this matter thoroughly, in order that, before they put their seed in the ground, they may know exactly where they stand.

One other suggestion I would advance is this: Owing to the economic circumstances brought about by the agricultural situation in western Canada, the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba particularly, and probably the other prairie province of Alberta, are faced with a grave relief situation which has not yet received any consideration at this session. Therefore we do not feel that we can consent to such a motion, if it is introduced by the Prime Minister.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I am of the same opinion as the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell). I have not been at all satisfied with the way in which we have been able to deal with the problems which face us this year. I do not think anyone is to blame for this, but I believe that several matters which are vital to this country at the present time should be discussed. Not only is the wheat situation a grievous one, but the agricultural situation generally throughout the country is precarious. I see no reason why we should not stay here for three or four more days in order to let hon. members express their opinions concerning these problems, even though we do nothing about them.

When it was proposed that we should take a recess from April 9 until April 28, I raised no particular objection, but the thought passed through my mind that we were throwing away a great deal of valuable time. When we come back on April 28, the time left to discuss vital matters will, in my opinion, be altogether inadequate. Therefore, I am inclined to disagree with the suggestion that we lengthen the recess, although I have no desire to be an obstructionist in this regard. I merely express the feeling which, I am sure, prevails throughout my constituency and province.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour has just announced, the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate at a quarter past three o'clock to give the royal assent to the bills which

[Mr. Coldwell.]

have passed both houses. The proceedings of this house will be interrupted at that time. As has been mentioned, this matter of adjournment has come up rather suddenly. I think it has come up as the result of a feeling which is general with respect to the desirability, all circumstances considered, of extending by two days and a half the vacation which has been arranged for Easter. It really means an accommodation of more than two days and a half because hon. members will be able to take advantage of Saturday and Sunday.

As the proceedings of the house may be interrupted at any moment, I was going to suggest that this matter might stand until after the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General has given royal assent. Possibly in the intervening period one or two of my colleagues could hold a conference with the hon. members who have spoken and, if thought advisable, I could, later on, introduce a motion which would permit adjournment to-day until the time fixed for reconvening after Easter. May I point out to my hon. friends who have taken some exception to a longer recess, that by the rules the matters which would come up for discussion next week would be the motion of the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn) in the nature of amendment to the house resolving itself into a committee of supply. In all probability the debate on that particular motion would not be concluded by Wednesday afternoon, and there would not be a chance for the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to go on next week with the matters to which my hon. friend has referred. The minister is, I understand, quite prepared to go on with those matters this afternoon. So far as the government is concerned, we have no desire to press consideration this afternoon of the other bills on the order paper. By having the Minister of Agriculture go on immediately with his estimates, by having a full discussion on the matters referred to, I would hope that it might be possible to meet the objections which hon. gentlemen opposite have raised and bring about a general agreement as to adjournment at six o'clock to-day. I shall have something more to say on this after the royal assent has been given.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Fournier (Hull) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Special

422. To provide for payments on reductions in wheat acreages, under conditions prescribed by the governor in council, for administration expenses in connection therewith, and for tem-