

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

butter has been sold to the industry in recent weeks below the figure which he gave a moment ago.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I do not know of any butter that has been sold below the figure based on 60½ cents up to date. That is the price at Montreal. There may be different prices in other parts of Canada.

**Mr. Smith (Calgary West):** I am not concerned about a cent or two. Will the minister make inquiries? To be perfectly frank, I am thinking about soap.

**Mr. Gardiner:** We have not had any butter that we have been required to sell to the soap industry so far as I know. Sometimes that does develop.

## RADIUM

## THEFT OF NEEDLES FROM SHED AT REAR OF NATIONAL RESEARCH BUILDING

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West):** I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Are press dispatches correct in stating that radium needles representing thousands of dollars of taxpayers' property were stored in an unprotected shed at the rear of the national research building, instead of in a vault, as is the general custom, and that as a result these radium needles were stolen and now endanger the lives of any who may come in contact with them?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have not received a report on that subject as yet, although I have asked for it. I will answer the question tomorrow.

**Mr. Fraser:** Thank you.

## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

## SHIPPING OF POTATOES AND TURNIPS—SUPPLY OF REEFER CARS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport):** I should like to deal with a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Queens (Mr. McLure). It had to do with the supply of reefer cars, and part of it was to this effect:

Will the minister advise, instruct and demand that the Canadian National Railways provide reefer cars for the shipment of potatoes and turnips from Prince Edward Island? The shortage of reefer cars at the present time is the greatest they have experienced in years.

I promised the hon. member that I would get a report from the Canadian National Railways. I am advised by them today that

[Mr. Smith (Calgary West).]

there are 454 reefer cars on hand or in transit for Prince Edward Island traffic. This total is made up as follows:

Cars on P.E.I. ....	292
In transit at Cape Tormentine .....	43
Moncton .....	30
Truro .....	22
Campbellton .....	22
Monk .....	45
Total .....	454

Officers of the Canadian National Railways report that a satisfactory position as to reefer cars is considered to be around 300. When it exceeds this figure there is a danger of transportation difficulties arising in connection with the movement of the cars. Therefore my hon. friend can see that there is no shortage of cars. On the contrary, the situation is a good one.

## COLLISION OF EXPRESS TRAINS BETWEEN MONTREAL AND HALIFAX

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport):** Yesterday the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne) repeated his question about an accident which took place between two Canadian National Railway trains in the province of Quebec. I have a statement here which is not too lengthy, and I could either give it to the hon. member or put it on *Hansard*. It is a report of the accident. It is not a report following investigation, because investigation is not yet complete. It is the report which I was able to obtain from the officers of the Canadian National Railways. I think perhaps I had better send it to the hon. member.

**Mr. Isnor:** Are we to understand that the report will be placed on *Hansard*?

**Mr. Chevrier:** Perhaps I had better read it to the house. It is a report concerning the accident on the Canadian National Railways at St. Cyrille, Quebec, on February 24, 1950.

At about 10.45 p.m., February 24, passenger train No. 60, the Scotian from Montreal to Halifax, collided head-on with passenger train No. 1, the Maritime Express from Halifax to Montreal, about two miles east of St. Cyrille station, some six miles east of Drummondville. Ninety-three passengers and twelve employees were injured, but none of these seriously.

A formal investigation will be made by the railway officers with regard to the accident, but from reports received it appears the accident was to some extent due to another accident which occurred twelve hours previously, when a train struck a truck at the public crossing at St. Cyrille, damaging the