

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

before the house the amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and what they will cover?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, hon. members will recall that we made rather material amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act last session. When we were preparing legislation for this session or the items upon which legislation might be required, we were having considerable difficulty in the administration of the amendments which were made last year. We therefore made provision for the possibility of bringing in amending legislation. However, I am now informed that, with greater experience in the administration, the difficulties have become less and less, and I am not sure that it will be necessary to bring down legislation.

**FLOODS****THAMES RIVER—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN CONTROL AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I should like to address a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Because of the recent severe flooding in the area of the Thames river in southern Ontario, would the minister consider including in his supplementary estimates a provision for the federal government's share of the amount required to complete the works projected for flood control and water conservation of the upper Thames river conservation authority?

**Hon. Jean Lesage (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** The matter is still under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

**TRADE****CANADA-UNITED STATES—SUGGESTED DEVALUATION OF CANADIAN DOLLAR**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I apologize for not having given him notice. In view of our increasing trade deficit with the United States, has the government given any consideration recently to the advisability, or otherwise, of devaluing the Canadian dollar in an effort to alleviate the situation?

**Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance):** Quite obviously, Mr. Speaker, if any such action were contemplated I would not announce it until such action were taken. But

[Mr. Bryce.]

I think, sir, we ought to believe that at all times the government is giving careful consideration to any action that would be of assistance in maintaining good trade relations and good balance of payments.

My recollection is that the balance of gold and dollars now in our hands is not any more than slightly different from what it has been for some time; therefore, I do not share the apparent alarm of my hon. friend.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? Is the implication of the minister's answer just given that the government is fixing the value of the Canadian dollar from day to day on the market?

**Mr. Harris:** I do not know what implication may be read into the question, Mr. Speaker, but no implication can be taken from my statement.

**CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION****INDIAN AFFAIRS—SUGGESTED EDUCATION OF INDIANS BY PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. E. Brown (Brantford):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Would the minister care to comment on a question raised in the legislature of Ontario regarding the education of Indians being assumed by the province, and the answer given there by the minister of education?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I noticed the report that a question had been asked or raised in the Ontario legislature by Mr. Nixon, and the reply by the minister of education. The implication of the reply was that Ontario might be prepared to take over the education of Indians in that province on the basis of reimbursement by the federal authorities. Because that is precisely in line with the policy we have been working toward in the Indian affairs branch for some considerable time, I did get the authority of my colleagues today to send the following telegram to the minister of education of Ontario, and perhaps I might be permitted to read it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister in reply said the implication of the statement was so and so, but we do not know what the statement was. He is about to read a telegram which is in direct relation to the statement. I think in fairness we ought to have first the statement made.