

*Inquiries of the Ministry*RE-EQUIPPING OF R.C.A.F. SQUADRONS IN
EUROPE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct another question to the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister yet in a position to announce a decision with reference to the re-equipping of the air division in Europe?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hellyer: I have a supplementary question. Would the minister care to comment on newspaper reports in today's press concerning the possibility of manufacturing in Canada a French plane?

Mr. Pearkes: No, Mr. Speaker. We have looked at this French plane. At the present time there is no comment that I can make as to whether or not it would be manufactured in Canada.

Mr. Hellyer: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister think that the plane most likely to be manufactured in Canada is a mirage?

Mr. Pearkes: The minister has no thoughts on that matter.

GRAIN

REPORTED DROP IN SHIPMENTS FROM LAKEHEAD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I am sorry I have not been able to send him notice, but would the minister comment on the report that shipments of grain, since the opening of navigation this year, have been 33 million bushels, a drop from the 72 million bushels of a year ago? Could he say whether this tremendous drop in shipments is the result of inadequate seaway facilities, insufficient shipping or both, or of a reduction in our export markets?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I did not require notice of this question from the hon. member. The 47 Conservative members from the prairie provinces are also interested in this matter and have been talking to me about it in the interval. We are not dependent upon one lone figure to draw our attention to these important facts in Canada.

I make no comment with regard to the shipping and the seaway facilities; that is not my province. The situation with regard to export trade is being maintained. The fact that the shipment of grain from the lakehead is not as great as it was last year

[Mr. Pearkes.]

has no effect on our export market at the present time because there is sufficient grain in position further east to handle these exports. Our exports of wheat are continuing at a good figure. We still expect to reach the quota that we set earlier in the year.

COAL

NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO ADEQUATE
SUPPLIES FROM CAPE BRETON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. What steps have been taken by the government to ensure an adequate supply of Cape Breton coal for Newfoundland consumers at prices competitive with United States coal?

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Trinity-Conception for having given me notice of his question. In reply I wish to say this. Steps have been taken to ensure an adequate quantity of Nova Scotia coal to Newfoundland during 1959. Early shipments are going forward to the principal dealers, and arrangements have been made with the government of Newfoundland for expedition of scheduled shipments from North Sydney throughout the entire shipping season. The deputy minister of economic development, Mr. Johnson, has a complete list of the tonnages and dates of all proposed shipments.

FISHERIES

NOVA SCOTIA—REPORTED DAMAGE TO GEAR OF
SMALL DRAGGERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. I regret that this information just reached me a few minutes ago and I did not have time to send him notice. In view of the reply given by the minister on May 11 to a question by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. Muir) in connection with the loss of trawl gear as the result of dragger operations may I ask this question. Is the minister aware that substantial damage has recently been done to small dragger's gear by the large foreign draggers operating along Cape Breton shore? What action, if any, is being taken by his department to protect trawl gear as well as smaller dragger fishing equipment?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I can say only that there is no evidence of foreign draggers operating within