

Inquiries of the Ministry

where private initiative is required to build the longest pipe line that has ever been built in the world, and to develop customers in areas that have used gas only to a limited extent. This is a job that requires an organization somewhat outside the organizing ability of government bodies.

Mr. McIvor: I should like to ask a supplementary question about the pipe line. Does this information mean that the greatest obstacle to the all-Canadian pipe line has now been overcome, namely, the people to put up the cash for the line?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I would be optimistic if I thought that obstacle had been overcome, but I think the machinery now organized will be the most effective means for financing the building of the line.

Mr. Fleming: May I ask the minister if the government offered any inducement to the two companies in urging them to unite their forces in that project?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. No inducements were asked for and none were offered.

Mr. Applewhaite: May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, arising out of the answers he has already given? Can he inform the house whether the negotiations of settlement to which he has referred will have any effect upon the supply of natural gas for British Columbia, and has he any statement to make on the progress of that proposal?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): One project does not interfere with the other. The gas for British Columbia will originate in the Peace river territory of British Columbia and Alberta. All I can say about the status of the west coast proposal is that the necessary export permits have been given which will make it possible to build a gas pipe line to serve British Columbia. The application to export gas to the United States has been before the federal power commission of the United States for some 17 or 18 months, and I believe the sponsors of the pipe line are hoping for an early decision.

WHEAT

QUESTION AS TO FINAL PAYMENT FOR 1952-53 CROP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can the minister say what the final payment for the 1952-53 wheat crop will be, and whether a final payment will be made at an early date?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I am unable to answer either of those questions, Mr. Speaker. I shall make inquiries, and will hope to be able to make a statement in the not too distant future.

DUMPING

INQUIRY AS TO REGULATIONS UNDER AMENDED ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue? Can the minister say whether any regulations have been passed under Bill No. 29, which was passed just before Christmas, or any instructions issued under the terms of that bill? If so, could any such regulations or instructions be tabled in the house?

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): I did not receive notice of the question, but I shall take the inquiry as notice and give an answer as soon as possible.

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE CONFERENCE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT—INVITATION TO OTTAWA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Has the Prime Minister any report on the progress of the conference of finance ministers in Sydney? Secondly, is an invitation to be extended at Sydney to hold the next conference in Ottawa?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): We have received no official report on the progress that is being made at the conference in Australia. I saw a report in the newspapers that the Minister of Finance, as had been understood before he left, had said that Canada would be glad to have the next meeting take place in Ottawa.

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Supplementary to that, and in view of certain reports that have come to us from Sydney, may I ask if the Canadian Minister of Finance is attending that conference without any restrictions and on the same basis as the others attending it, or if, in fact, he is only attending as an observer? I direct that supplementary question because of reports which have appeared in the press that he is there as an observer.

Mr. St. Laurent: He is attending the meeting of the finance ministers of the commonwealth in the capacity in which he was invited, as one of the finance ministers of