

Inquiries of the Ministry

recommended some time ago that certain educational benefits be provided for members of the Canadian merchant marine up to the age of thirty years. The department has passed regulations making provisions for those benefits. I am not aware that there has been any waiving of the thirty-year regulation, or that there is any intention to waive it.

PEACE RIVER DISTRICT**RAILWAY OUTLET TO PACIFIC COAST**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Irvine (Cariboo): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport. Has the government given consideration to the building of a railway outlet from the Peace river to the west coast? If so, is it likely that work will start this year?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Irvine: No smiling, now; I am serious about it.

Mr. Chevrier: I assure the hon. member that I too am serious about it. May I say in reply that the government has given and is still giving serious consideration to this extension, as is the Northern Alberta Railways. I presume the hon. member has in mind an extension westerly from that railway. No decision has yet been arrived at.

I am sure the hon. member is aware of the announcement which has been made, either by the premier or by certain officials in British Columbia, to the effect that the Pacific Great Eastern will be extended from Quesnel to Prince George. I believe the statement went on to say that it was the intention to project it into the Peace River district. Beyond that, and the statement I made when the matter was up for discussion in the house on a previous occasion, I have nothing to add.

BUTTER**REMOVAL FROM MARKET TO SUPPORT FLOOR PRICE—SUBSIDIES FOR PRODUCERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. H. Hatfield (Victoria-Carleton): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture or his assistant. Will the minister inform the house whether any butter has been removed from the market to support the floor price, and whether in future the government will let butter find its own price level and subsidize the producer up to the floor price so that butter will give oleomargarine some competition on the market?

Mr. Knowles: Where is the minister?

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Mr. Robert McCubbin (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I returned to Ottawa only this morning, and I have not been in touch with departmental officials. I shall answer the hon. member's question later this week.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE**DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN WESTERN CANADA—INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF ACT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Wood Mountain): I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. In view of the widespread drought conditions in western Canada, and the need for increased crop failure payments made on a more equitable basis, will the Prime Minister inform the house whether the amendment to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act forecast in the speech from the throne will be proceeded with at this session?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I find the hon. member's question somewhat involved. There are so many qualifying provisions in it that I shall have to look at it in printed form before I venture to give an answer.

Mr. Coldwell: The question is clear.

PRAIRIE FARM REHABILITATION**EXTENSION TO NORTHWESTERN MANITOBA—RESOLUTION OF MANITOBA LEGISLATURE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. S. Zaplinsky (Dauphin): In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, may I ask his parliamentary assistant whether the department has received a resolution passed by the Manitoba legislature calling for the extension of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act to cover northwestern Manitoba? If so, what action does his department intend to take in that regard during the present session?

Mr. Robert McCubbin (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture): I am not in a position to answer the hon. member's question at the moment. I shall give an answer later this week.

OLD AGE PENSIONS**PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ACT—QUESTION AS TO ALLOWABLE INCOME**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is there not an omission—surely by error—in the motion of which the minister gave