

Questions

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following answers, deposited with the Clerk of the house, are printed in the official report of debates pursuant to standing order 39:

ATOMIC IRRADIATION

Question No. 186—Mr. Argue:

1. Is atomic irradiation being used by Canadian agricultural scientists in the development of new varieties of crops?
2. If so, what is the type of equipment and the approximate cost of its use by federal employees?
3. What improvements in various kinds of crops have been obtained by this method?
4. To what extent, if any, does atomic irradiation increase the number of mutations that plant breeders can obtain in a given period of time?

Answer by: Mr. Gardiner:

1. No, but X-ray irradiation is being used by the experimental farms service in co-operation with the national research council. Some work is also being done at the University of Saskatchewan.
2. The experimental farms service has, up to the present time, not purchased any special equipment for either X-ray or atomic radiation work.
- The X-ray irradiation equipment at the national research council has been made available for our work. The approximate cost of this equipment is \$25,000.
3. No productions of economic value have been developed in Canada. However, this program of work has not been active for a sufficient time to evaluate this method from the standpoint of the production of useful mutations in various species and varieties of farm crops.

4. Genes in a given plant species mutate at a very low rate under natural conditions. Irradiation greatly speeds up mutation rates. Thus, in barley the mutant gene influencing strength of stems occurs with a frequency of two per 1,000 spike progenies, following an irradiation of 10,000 r-units. The rate of mutations here has increased manyfold over that occurring under natural conditions.

In the case of genes controlling rust resistance in oats, a tenfold increase in the mutation rate of irradiated material over natural rate has been brought about with the proper dosage of irradiation.

BUTTER IN STORAGE

Question No. 240—Mr. Proudfoot:

How many pounds of butter were held in storage by the agricultural prices support board as of March 1, 1956?

Answer by: Mr. Gardiner:

On March 3 the accounts of the agricultural prices support board showed stocks on hand of 62,829,323 pounds.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS BUILDING, OTTAWA

Question No. 261—Mr. Diefenbaker:

1. Since what date has the dominion bureau of statistics building located in Tunney's pasture been occupied?
2. When was the said building completed?
3. Have complaints been received from the office occupants of said building regarding lack of heat? If so, how many such complaints were received?
4. Are additional or storm windows now being provided for the said building? If so, what is the estimated total cost of such new windows and the work and services of installation?
5. To whom was the contract let for supplies and labour or services in respect of such new windows?
6. What was the total of such contract or contracts, and what was the date thereof?
7. When did work for installation of new windows commence?
8. When is it expected such work will be completed?
9. Have any additional contracts been let, or are any contemplated, for any modifications of the heating or ventilating system? If so, what are the particulars thereof?

Answer by: Mr. Winters:

1. June, 1952.
2. Building was accepted by the department on January 14, 1953.
3. Yes, several.
4. Yes—\$82,900.
5. McIntyre Aluminum Products Limited, Niagara Falls, Ont.
6. \$82,900—Contract was awarded on September 13, 1955.
7. February 16, 1956.
8. April 15, 1956.
9. No.

FEED GRAIN ASSISTANCE GRANTS, ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Question No. 264—Mr. Balcom:

What subsidy was paid the farmers of the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, through implementation of the feed grain assistance grants, during 1955?

Answer by: Mr. Gardiner:

Freight assistance was paid during the calendar year 1955 on shipments of western feed grain into Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland in the following amounts:

New Brunswick	\$ 1,074,893
Nova Scotia	1,749,575
Prince Edward Island	398,495
Newfoundland	409,279

\$ 3,632,242

POSTAL EMPLOYEES—NEW WESTMINSTER, SASKATOON, TORONTO

Question No. 271—Mr. Knight:

1. What is the present number of postal employees in New Westminster, Saskatoon, Toronto?