

Inquiries of the Ministry

also because there appeared in the *Manitoba Co-operator* details of wheat sales which showed an increase for last year. My question to the minister is this. Is there any foundation for this criticism? Second, what other countries in the world have increased their sales?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we do not discuss sales of wheat, we discuss exports of wheat. Exports of Canadian wheat were higher this crop year than at the same date last year to the extent of 26 million to 27 million bushels. We have increased our sales of wheat to our three largest customers, the same customers this year as last year, Great Britain, West Germany and Japan.

Mr. McIvor: I thank you.

Mr. Winch: I have a second question—

Mr. Speaker: The first question should not have been asked.

FINANCERESULTS OF SURVEY OF INVESTMENT
INTENTIONS FOR 1957

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have arranged to make available a departmental release summarizing the results of the survey of investment intentions for 1957. On the basis of the plans reported in the survey, total capital expenditures in Canada, both private and public, would reach \$8.5 billion in 1957. This outlay, if realized, would represent an increase of 8 per cent over the \$7.9 billion spent in 1956.

LIVESTOCKSTATEMENT ON INQUIRY INTO METHODS
OF SLAUGHTER

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Kootenay West on Thursday regarding the humane slaughter of meat animals, I regret that I am not in a position to go into the matter in any great detail. It would seem more appropriate that discussion of this somewhat involved question should take place on estimates rather than during the question period.

However, I can indicate to the hon. member that officials of the Department of Agriculture have had the question under study and information has been collected from official and other sources in the United States and from several European countries. This has

[Mr. McIvor.]

been discussed with responsible officers of the packing industry and there have been some discussions between the industry and certain sections of the S.P.C.A. to which officials of the department have been invited. At the present time both groups are considering the issue in a frank, exploratory manner.

As the hon. member knows, there already are provisions in the Criminal Code under which action can be taken against persons responsible for cruelty to animals, whether such cruelty is associated with slaughter for meat or otherwise. Study so far given to the problem by our officials does not indicate the desirability of further federal legislation on the matter at the present time.

I can assure the hon. member that the minister and officials of the Department of Agriculture are genuinely interested in promoting the most humane methods possible of slaughtering meat animals adaptable to meat packing operations in Canada, and are pursuing the course which they think is best fitted to achieve that end.

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): May I ask a supplementary question?

Has there been any discussion between the minister's department and the provinces on the question of jurisdiction in this matter, and has there been any understanding between the department and the provinces that the provinces would like the federal government to take appropriate action under federal legislation?

Mr. Gardiner: As the statement indicates, there have been discussions with the provincial authorities and those who are interested in the question in general, and we are at all times giving consideration to those matters in relation to which we have authority. But—and this, of course, is obvious from the question asked—there are certain matters which can only be dealt with by the provinces themselves.

Mr. Winch: If I may continue, Mr. Speaker, is there any understanding yet that the provinces have asked your department to accept the responsibility of bringing in legislation?

Mr. Gardiner: There is no doubt—although I cannot give an instance of it—that this kind of request has come out in the discussions which have taken place, but the constitution pretty well settles the question whether we can or cannot legislate.

SUPPLY

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.