

*Inquiries of the Ministry*INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL
WATERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he has given consideration to the possibility of approaching the four or five nations which have historic fishing rights on the east coast of Canada with a view to seeking their acquiescence in the establishment of a 12 mile fishing zone.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is a very complicated question and we have been giving it consideration in the department for some time. The main country involved, of course, is the United States.

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY BRANCH LINES—REQUEST FOR POLICY
STATEMENT RESPECTING ABANDONMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can the right hon. gentleman now say whether the governor in council has received a petition under section 53 of the Railway Act from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture asking for a stay of all proceedings in connection with applications respecting the branch line abandonment? Can the Prime Minister say whether any new policy has been adopted which will prevent the abandonment of further branch lines at this time?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): A notice of appeal has been received by the government.

Mr. Argue: I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell the house when policy will be announced as far as the request for delay in the proceedings is concerned. Further, I wonder whether the Prime Minister has anything to report on the meeting between the railway companies and the Minister of Transport in this connection.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I can only say that a meeting has taken place. Discussions have been carried on, notice of appeal has been given, and when the government is in a position to say more in this connection it will do so.

(Translation):

AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR DIRECT GRAIN PURCHASES
BY EASTERN FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Could the minister tell us why it is impossible for co-operatives, feed manufacturers and farmers in the east to buy wheat and other grain directly from the Canadian wheat board?

Mr. Speaker: I am very sorry but, as it is put, the hon. member's question requires a reasoned answer from the minister and that is not in order. I feel that he should put his question differently or put it on the order paper.

Mr. Marcoux: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put my question again to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the eastern farmers, the co-operatives and the feed manufacturers buy wheat and other grain directly from the Canadian wheat board?

(Text):

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

(Translation):

Mr. J. P. Cook (Montmagny-L'Islet): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the reply given to the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Marcoux), could the minister tell us whether the eastern farmers, who buy wheat regularly from the Canadian wheat board, enjoy terms and conditions as advantageous as those offered to China?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry but the hon. member cannot ask such a question on the orders of the day since it calls for a detailed answer. I would therefore suggest that he put his question on the order paper so as to get a complete reply.

Mr. Cook: I am not asking for details, Mr. Speaker. I just want to know whether the conditions are the same.

(Text):

INQUIRY AS TO 1962 PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE
PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Horace A. Olson (Medicine Hat): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he tell us when he expects the payment of awards under P.F.A.A. will be made to those farmers who qualified in this crop year, 1962?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member will recognize that his question would be more proper on the order paper.

BUTTER—INQUIRY AS TO CHANGE IN POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture