

WHEAT

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT
POLICY FOR PRESENT YEAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. NICHOLSON (Mackenzie): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to send him notice. Before coming into the chamber I received a telegram with regard to meetings of farmers in my constituency, and asking when an announcement might be made with regard to the wheat policy of the government for the present year. I wonder if the minister could give any indication as to when this information may be made available to the farmers.

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I believe the resolution dealing with this matter will be on the order paper to-morrow, and will be proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY—PICKETING AND ARRESTS
AT WINDSOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. NOSEWORTHY (York South): According to the Toronto and Windsor newspapers, picketing is in progress at the Motor Products plant in Windsor, and arrests already have been made. On Tuesday the minister told us that the men at that plant had volunteered to return to work but that the management refused to take them back. Will the minister now tell us what success his department has had so far in getting these men back to work in a vital war industry?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): The hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) asked me the same question this morning. I have no further knowledge than I had when the hon. member asked the question the other day. At that time I pointed out to him that these men were on an illegal strike; that they had been so informed by myself, and advised to return to work. I forwarded a telegram to the company suggesting that they take these men back to work, and at the moment Mr. Louis Fine, Toronto industrial disputes inquiry commissioner, is in Windsor dealing with the matter.

CANADIAN ARMY

REFERENCE TO STATEMENTS OF MR. POULIOT
AND MR. TUSTIN IN DEBATE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): I want to refer to two matters which have arisen in the house in my absence. There was a statement made by the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), during the course of a speech which he delivered on March 2, in which he intimated or left the impression that the inspector general for western Canada, Major-General Griesbach, had some responsibility for the dispatch of the expedition to Hong Kong. I can say to the house that Major-General Griesbach had nothing whatever to do with that expedition.

During the course of that same speech the hon. member read a letter from some young man at a training camp at Brantford, complaining that he had been subjected to some persecution on account of speaking French, and that in the course of an altercation which occurred he was arrested and put into the guard room. I have had a report from the training camp at Brantford, and the information I get is that a check of the guard reports reveals that only two men were confined in the guard room over the week-end of February 1, 1942, which was the date referred to, these being two drunks. Neither of these men was a French-Canadian. Inquiries made of all concerned reveal no knowledge of any such fracas as that described. There is no officer at this training centre by name of Lieutenant Wisseman, which is the name of the officer referred to by the hon. member in his speech.

Yesterday the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Tustin) referred to an order for a return passed on February 2, showing the number of men enlisted in the Canadian expeditionary force during each month of the great war, 1914-1918, and the Prime Minister promised to inquire with regard to it. I may say that that return was filed; the figures which were made up were checked, and it was pointed out that there was some discrepancy between the figures in the return and the figures in other papers or documents which had been published. The reason for the delay is to see that the figures are checked, and I expect to be able to file the returns to-morrow.

With regard to the matters about which I spoke first, may I point out that I have been attending the Hong Kong inquiry, and it is impossible to be in two places at the same