

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Agriculture, as a result of representations made to British Columbia members. Is consideration still being given to the extension to other provinces of the prairie farm rehabilitation measure? If so, when may a decision be expected?

Right Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): Consideration is still being given to the matter. I am not yet in a position to state when an announcement will be made.

Mr. P. C. BLACK (Cumberland): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if he will soon be able to make an announcement of policy and bring down legislation with respect to the reclamation of the marshlands of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Last year the minister announced that a bill had been drafted and gave a general outline of the policy. The interested parties are very anxious to have a further pronouncement of policy on behalf of the government.

Mr. GARDINER: The legislation referred to last year had to do with the extension of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act to other parts of Canada as well as the Palliser triangle in the west. The answer to this question would be the same that I gave a few moments ago to the question asked by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid). The legislation is still under consideration, and I am not in a position to say what will be the result of that consideration.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): I would point out that the reclamation of these marshlands is in a somewhat different position, inasmuch as it has been unanimously recommended and approved by all members of this house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

### HIS MAJESTY THE KING

#### PROPOSED CHANGE IN ROYAL STYLE AND TITLE— PROCEDURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I sent him a copy of a statement with the cases, and the references in Wheare on the Statute of Westminster regarding the matter which came up yesterday afternoon, having to do with His Majesty's style and title. When he has had time to consider the question, will the minister give a reply, say next week?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think that the reply can be given at once. If the hon. mem-  
[Mr. Reid.]

ber will look at *Hansard* of yesterday, I think he will find it was made quite clear that it was my view at least that under the Statute of Westminster no change in the royal style and title could be made without the unanimous affirmative action of the parliament of the United Kingdom and of the parliaments of the other units of the commonwealth, and that the abstention or refusal of any one of them would prevent the action of the others from being effective. I think that is also the doctrine which is expounded in the text book to which the hon. member refers.

Mr. CHURCH: And Hon. Howard Ferguson said in 1932 it would need the consent of all the provinces.

Mr. MacNICOL: I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a supplementary question. Is it his intention to consult, or is it necessary for him to consult, with the provincial governments before he consults with the other dominions in reference to the change of His Majesty's style and title?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No. The only requirement of the Statute of Westminster is that there be concurrent action by the parliament of the United Kingdom and the central parliaments of the other nations of the British commonwealth. There is no requirement in the Statute of Westminster for consultation by the central government of one of the units of the commonwealth with the provincial governments of that unit.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### CANADA STEAMSHIPS—ALLEGED REPUDIATION OF AGREEMENT WITH EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Have representations been made to the minister or to the Department of Labour alleging that Canada Steamships Limited have repudiated in whole or in part the agreement made with its employees following the seamen's strike of last summer? If such representations have been made, has the minister investigated the complaint, and does he contemplate any action in the matter? As I did not give the minister notice of this question, it will be satisfactory to me if he will take this as notice.

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): I will answer my hon. friend right away. He knows the state of the industry and he knows the direction from which the question springs. I want to say to my