

Inquiries of the Ministry

the damage in previous occurrences which have been declared of national disaster proportions?

Mr. St. Laurent: I sincerely hope the property damage that has been suffered in those localities does not amount to \$50 million.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is the estimate in the press.

Mr. St. Laurent: Yes, but our experience has been that there is always a first estimate of the extent of the damage that is far in excess of what it proves to be when an investigation is made and the figures of the actual damage suffered in each locality are added up. There has been participation in assistance by the federal government in cases where the actual damage was much less than \$50 million.

Now, as to the first part of the hon. gentleman's question, to my knowledge we have always dealt with the provincial governments in working out federal participation in the measures to alleviate damages resulting from a national disaster within a province.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. G. Weir (Portage-Neepawa): May I ask the Prime Minister a question supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Prince Albert. In the event that damage from floods and other circumstances arising in the province of Manitoba is beyond the capacity of the local people to meet, would the same type of consideration be given as has been suggested by the hon. member for Prince Albert?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Of course the same type of consideration will be given to Canadians in any part of Canada, but I do not think there has been any case where the interference with the growing of future crops has entered into the calculation of the physical damage that was taken into account in arranging for assistance to those suffering the damage.

NATIONAL REVENUE**APPOINTMENT OF CUSTOMS OFFICER AT PORT CHURCHILL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. D. Weaver (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Has a decision yet been made as to whether the Department of National Revenue will be able to make arrangements for a customs port at Churchill for the 1955 season?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Revenue will be prepared to provide complete customs clearance facilities at Churchill, Manitoba, during the 1955 navigation season, if assurances can be given by a substantial number of importers, boards of trade, or other interested associations that they will take advantage of the service and will see that customs brokers and forwarding agents are established at the port to facilitate passage of documents through customs and the movement of the goods after clearance to destination.

TRADE**FLOUR—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PRICE DIFFERENTIAL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the minister discussed with the minister of trade and industry for Jamaica his statement that Canadian flour can be purchased in Liverpool and Trinidad at from 20 to 27 cents less per hundred pound bag than in Jamaica? If this situation prevails, can steps be taken to bring these prices into line?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): The minister of trade and industry for Jamaica did discuss this question with me and others while he was here during the present week. I understand there is some differential in the price of flour as related to certain specific brands. The government of Jamaica and the millers are in communication with each other, and officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce have also been in touch with the millers. We hope some satisfactory arrangement can be worked out.

POSTAL SERVICE**WHALLEY, B.C.—CHANGE IN NAME OF SUB-POST OFFICE—LETTER CARRIER SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. G. J. Hahn (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Postmaster General. In view of the representations made by the Surrey council, the North Surrey board of trade and the junior chambers of commerce in that region, when does the department expect to change the name of the sub-post office in that area to North Surrey, and when does it intend to put the letter carrier service into operation?

Mr. T. A. M. Kirk (Parliamentary Assistant to the Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I