

exported during the period September to January, inclusive. With the present increases, prices from May 5 to the end of August will be 3 cents per dozen higher than in 1946, and fresh export eggs in the September to January period will be 5½ cents above 1946.

The immediate increase of 1½ cents per dozen will, as already stated, be effective with purchases of eggs from suppliers by the special products board as from May 5. The Ministry of Food have stressed their expectation that the full amount of this increase will be reflected immediately to producers for all eggs delivered at registered egg grading stations for carlot shipment to the special products board.

Mr. ISNOR: Why were not the two eastern Canadian ports, Halifax and Saint John, included in this agreement as shipping points?

Mr. GARDINER: These two products are mostly delivered to the British government at the points mentioned. The points mentioned are the basis of the agreement. Some of the products are shipped from Saint John and Halifax. The terms given here dealing with these products apply at the maritime ports.

Mr. HACKETT: Is not the difference between the cost of transportation to seaboard added if the goods go to Halifax? I refer particularly to the long train haul.

Mr. GARDINER: It depends on where the product originates. Some originate in Nova Scotia.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: May I express my appreciation to the minister for the statement he has made? At last the Fraser valley has partly come into its own.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

REFERENCE OF CONSTITUTION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I should like to table contents of the constitution of the international refugee organization and related documents, among others the agreement on interim measures. This constitution and agreement are the result of lengthy discussion in the united nations concerning the international problem of refugees and displaced persons. Canada, represented by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) signed both the constitution of the I.R.O. and the agreement on interim measures on Decem-

ber 15, 1946, immediately following the adoption of the resolution by the general assembly. As a matter of fact Canada was the first state to sign both these documents. The constitution and the agreement on interim measures have now been signed by thirteen states, only two of which, the United Kingdom and New Zealand, have signed without reservations as to subsequent legislative acceptance. The constitution will come into force when it is signed and ratified by at least fifteen states, whose combined total contributions would equal 75 per cent of the proposed budget.

The agreement on interim measures, which establishes a preparatory commission of the I.R.O., came into force when it was signed by eight states who had also signed the constitution. Unlike the constitution, it does not require parliamentary ratification in addition to signature. The preparatory commission, which has already met once in Geneva, will meet again in Lausanne on May 1, and the Canadian representative will be Mr. Jean Désy, Canadian ambassador, Brazil.

In view of the urgent necessity of establishing the I.R.O. as soon as possible, I shall shortly introduce a resolution in this house proposing ratification of the constitution by parliament. At that time, when hon. members have had an opportunity of studying these documents, I hope to make a more extensive and detailed statement concerning the international refugee organization.

With the unanimous consent of the house I move that this constitution and interim agreement be referred to the committee on external affairs.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I ask whether Russia is one of the nations subscribing to this constitution?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I am sorry to have to say that the answer is a negative one.

Motion agreed to.

REDISTRIBUTION

PETITION AGAINST ENLARGEMENT OF YUKON CONSTITUENCY TO INCLUDE MACKENZIE

Mr. GEORGE BLACK (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I present to the house a petition of Canadian and British subjects residing in the district of Mackenzie in the Northwest Territories of Canada. It is additional to the petition I presented on the twenty-fifth day of this month. The petition prays that the district of Mackenzie be not included with the