

struction, which I understand are not yet complete, a statement on that project will be made.

Mr. FRASER: Why is this not taken out of the present revenue for this year?

Mr. MAYHEW: They have already taken \$26,800,000 out of revenue.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Mayhew thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 178, to authorize the provision of moneys to meet certain expenditures made and capital indebtedness incurred by the Canadian National Railways system during the calendar year 1945, and to authorize the guarantee by His Majesty of certain securities to be issued by the Canadian National Railway Company.

Motion agreed to, and bill read the first time.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

51. Departmental administration, \$639,578.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

179. Dominion fuel board, administration and investigations, \$32,120.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

183. Battlefields memorials, \$49,625.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES

229. Canadian travel bureau service, \$77,950.

Item stands.

Mr. BRACKEN: That brings four more departments into supply. May I ask the minister how many departments still remain to be brought in?

Mr. MACKENZIE: I think there are three, and I wish to assure the house that the rights of all hon. members are protected if there are any matters they wish to bring up for the redress of grievances.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1. Departmental administration, \$136,035.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): I have a question to ask the minister about future production and marketing, and perhaps it would shorten the proceedings if I put my question before the minister makes his statement.

[Mr. Cherrier.]

I wish to touch on the production programme in this country as it pertains to marketing. It will be realized that, despite the great carryover of wheat that we had a few years ago, that problem no longer exists with us to-day. According to the chairman of the wheat board we shall very shortly have disposed of one billion bushels of wheat in the three years since 1943. While it is not safe to have a carryover of less than 60 million bushels of wheat, we shall be down to that figure before we start to harvest the 1946 crop. While that will be our position, our neighbours to the south, the United States, may be able to export some 300 million bushels this year. So that the entire picture of wheat carryover for exporting countries is vastly different from what it was a few years ago. While there is a great demand for wheat at this time, our governments, by legislative action, have kept down the price of wheat. The only grain product we have selling on the open market is rye. Some days ago rye sold for \$2 a bushel on the open market in Winnipeg. In normal times rye sold for from ten to twenty per cent less per bushel than wheat, so that it will be realized what the price of wheat would be to-day if an open market existed for wheat. I am not saying that it should, because we must maintain the situation as it should be for the consumers of this country. But I cite the price of rye to show what the price of wheat would be if there were an open market for it to-day.

While there is a demand for our wheat at the present time, there is no guarantee at all as to the future requirements of our wheat. Even the officials of the Canadian wheat board who are making a constant study of this matter, claim that the future for our wheat is most uncertain as to both markets and price. We all realize that the same may be said of oats and barley, in which our carryover is considerably less than it was a few years ago, and that affects our production of live stock and meat in this country.

I have here a chart—and I should like to compliment the authors of it—of our weekly live stock and meat statistics. It appears in the *Live Stock Market Review* of November 15, 1945, and reviews the situation comprehensively. It shows that the slaughterings of hogs from January 1, 1945, to date have decreased in western Canada by 40.5 per cent, while in eastern Canada there has been a decrease of 24.7 per cent, or an average decrease for the whole country of 34.9 per cent as compared with the same period in 1944.