

today's wheat review that the Canadian export quantity of wheat for this year is likely to remain the same as last year while United States exports are likely to go up by 17 per cent.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The export figures are somewhat misleading. The total exports for the first six months were 2 million bushels less than for the first six months of last year. This result arises from the fact that last year we took into the crop year a carryover of about 38 million bushels of sales which had not been shipped, due partly to the grain elevator strike at Vancouver. That carryover of sales was counted in the shipments for the first six months. This year we had a carryover of only 11 million bushels, mainly out of Churchill. So we had a balance of sales from the previous year of about 27 million bushels to make up before we applied shipments against this year's sales.

While we do not give figures for sales, I can tell my hon. friend that sales are up this year and are much better than for the corresponding period last year. I do not know who is responsible for the statement that we expect our sales to be about even with last year. I expect them to be better than last year, and I know the wheat board expects them to be better.

For example, we have sold to the United Kingdom more wheat up to this time this year than we sold during the whole of last year; and the United Kingdom is still buying wheat. I do not know that I can add any more at this time.

Mr. Argue: Am I to take it from the minister's statement that he is saying that export clearances of wheat during the present year will be greater than last year?

Mr. Howe: Oh, yes, during the crop year, yes.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—REFERENCE TO STATEMENT BY MAYOR OF MONTREAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Has the attention of the minister been drawn to the report in this morning's *Montreal Gazette* concerning the view of Mayor Drapeau of Montreal that when employment drops to the point where social welfare reaches the stage of permanent aid the matter becomes a national and not a municipal problem? In view of the seriousness of the problem of

Inquiries of the Ministry

unemployment relief as it affects many cities across Canada, will the minister comment on this statement?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Yes, I have noted the news dispatch referred to by my hon. friend. I can tell him that the point of view expressed in that news item, along with representations by other civic authorities, will receive full consideration.

IRRIGATION

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER PROJECT—SUGGESTED MEETING OF CABINET COMMITTEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister say whether arrangements have been made for a committee of the cabinet to meet with a committee of the Saskatchewan government for the purpose of discussing the matter of the South Saskatchewan dam?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No arrangements have yet been made in that regard.

Mr. Argue: Would the Prime Minister be prepared to meet the premier of Saskatchewan to discuss this subject?

Mr. St. Laurent: That is something I would prefer to discuss with the premier of Saskatchewan.

NATURAL RESOURCES

USE OF NORTHERN LANDING STRIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources if his department has any plans to use the landing strips erected in connection with the D.E.W. line and radar defence stations for exploration and development work throughout our northern areas?

Hon. Jean Lesage (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): To whatever extent it is possible.

HOUSING

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING—POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN INTEREST RATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the reduction in interest rates by the Bank of Canada, is it the intention