

Inquiries of the Ministry

is made also in appreciation of the fact that the leaders of the three major political parties have come or are to come to their school. Further, they wish by their presence to extend felicitations to the Prime Minister on the anniversary of his birthday, which he is celebrating today. We feel that visits of this kind do much to further an interest in public affairs on the part of the students of our collegiate institute, and that they in turn will be better citizens as a result of having attended here and having heard the leaders of the political parties in this country. We hope other cities will follow the lead of St. Catharines in carrying on activities of this kind.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGSTHE PRIME MINISTER—EXPRESSION OF
GOOD WISHES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to extend to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) our very best wishes on this, his birthday. I can assure him that whatever differences we may have in regard to the particular problems of the day in no way affect our sincerity when we say many happy returns.

BUTTER

INQUIRY AS TO REMOVAL OF BAN ON IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. E. Wright (Melfort): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Trade and Commerce; since the Minister of Agriculture is not here I will direct it to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. On January 24, I believe it was, an order in council was passed requiring Canadian importers of butter to obtain permits before importing that product into Canada. It is my understanding that the order in council has been rescinded. Is that correct, and if so, what is the explanation for it?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the statement is correct. The order in council was passed and later rescinded. It was passed because it was believed that imports of butter substantially in excess of amounts required by the Canadian economy were contemplated. The order in council was cancelled when it was found there was no possibility of those imports being made in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Charlton: I should like to ask a supplementary question. Is it not true a considerable amount of butter has been imported

[Mr. Cavers.]

into this country since the first of the year? How much butter has been imported, and from what countries?

Mr. Howe: Without consulting my officers, I think I can give the information. There is a certain quantity of butter en route to Canada from New Zealand, amounting to approximately 2.5 million pounds, which is about two and a half days' supply for Canada. No other imports are contemplated.

TRANSPORTCANADA-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND—QUESTION
AS TO STEAMSHIP AND AIR SERVICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. West coast press dispatches today indicate that during the visit of the Prime Minister of New Zealand in Ottawa earlier in the week there were discussions about continuation of shipping services by the *Aorangi* between Canada, New Zealand and Australia, as well as about landing rights for Canadian planes in New Zealand. Will the minister give the house a statement as to the possibility of early action on these two questions?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): The Prime Minister of New Zealand did discuss, with some of my colleagues and myself, the two matters to which reference has just been made. So far as landing rights for Canadian Pacific Air Lines in New Zealand are concerned, it was requested on behalf of the Canadian government that C. P. A. be given stop-over rights in New Zealand. I am happy to say that the Prime Minister took a sympathetic and kindly view towards this request, and promised to discuss it with his cabinet colleagues.

With reference to the steamship subsidy for the *Aorangi*, I should like to be able to discuss this matter with my colleagues before making a statement.

PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

QUESTION AS TO DISBANDING OF PERSONNEL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Finance say whether the government is continuing, in view of recent price trends in Canada, its policy of disbanding the personnel of the wartime prices and trade board?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): The answer to the hon. member's question as put is in the affirmative; but perhaps I should add a word of explanation. As the house is