

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, at the time we were looking for additional facilities which could produce coins for Canada we explored the possibility of having them produced in mints other than the United States, and were not successful in so doing. I believe that within a reasonable period of time any shortage of coins will disappear as the mint facilities, including the expanded facilities which we instituted a couple of years ago, are completely involved in producing two-bit pieces, as the hon. member calls them.

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in connection with the minting of silver coins which have been replaced by nickel coins.

Is the minister aware that the new coins cannot be used in automatic vending machines and parking meters of our cities and does he intend to compensate the companies which own those machines as well as the municipalities affected by that change?

Mr. Speaker: This question has already been asked in the house.

[English]

AGRICULTURE

TURKEYS—REQUEST FOR PROTECTION AGAINST U.S. IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture of which I have given him notice. Due to the fact that Ontario turkey producers are being forced to sell their products at below the cost of production because of the influx of United States turkey imports, what action is the government anticipating in the way of emergency tariffs or import quotas to help prevent our Canadian turkey producers from being forced out of business? I understand that the turkey federation has made a submission to the minister in this regard.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this question should be answered by way of a statement on motions. This is a suggestion I make to the minister at this time.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, this is of very great importance to turkey producers all across Canada as well as to the feed grain producers, and I believe the minister has an answer which is not too long.

Mr. Speaker: I hope the answer is shorter than the question.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I assure you the answer is very brief, but its brevity is no indication of the importance of the question.

I may say that representations have been received from turkey producers, and I met with officials of the Canadian Turkey Federation with regard to the importation of turkeys and its effect on the Canadian domestic market. I have assured the officials of the federation and other interested producers that the government has this problem under active consideration.

Although this question does not deal specifically with the matter raised by the hon. member, it is about all that can be properly said at this time.

CORN—REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF FLOOR PRICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the Canadian commercial corn harvest is only just beginning and the price quoted to growers is so disastrously low as to be considered below the cost of production, can the minister indicate whether immediate steps will be announced either to establish a floor price of \$1.50 per bushel as requested by spokesmen on behalf of the industry or to ensure in some other manner a just return to the growers for this major crop?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, last Friday a question of a similar nature was addressed to me, and the answer today is the same. This matter is under active consideration.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DAIRY PRINCESS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I wonder if I may be permitted at this time to draw Your Honour's attention to the presence in your gallery of a very distinguished visitor. I refer to Miss Joan Harland, who is on an official visit to Canada in her capacity as dairy princess of England and Wales.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.