

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

between 38 cents—the price which they get for grade A large eggs when they deliver them to storage for the agricultural prices support board—and the 30 cents paid to producers should have been and it was necessary to be more than had been the common differential for several years past. That is the matter upon which I have been trying to get some arrangement made with the produce people.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Well, my question, Mr. Speaker, did not have reference to western Canada. It really had reference to the western part of Ontario, and the report has been that they could not sell their eggs in Toronto to anyone for more than 35 cents. I just wanted to be clear that the same practice is still being followed, and that the agricultural prices support board is prepared to buy these eggs if delivered to them at 38 cents.

**Mr. Harkness:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is no question whatever about that, and there never has been.

[Later:]

**Mr. H. A. Bryson (Humboldt-Melfort):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture arising out of the statement he made a moment or so ago relative to the support price on eggs. In the course of his statement the minister said he had made arrangements to ensure that the producers would get 30 cents a dozen for eggs. I wonder if the minister would elaborate on the nature of those arrangements.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member misunderstood me. I did not say I had made arrangements. I said I had taken steps which I hoped would result in an arrangement so that egg producers in western Canada, beginning early next week, would receive 30 cents for grade A eggs.

**Mr. Bryson:** Would the minister advise the house what these steps were?

**Mr. Harkness:** No, Mr. Speaker, not at the moment.

**Mr. A. M. Campbell (The Battlefords):** May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Agriculture. Does the minister consider that a floor price of 30 cents for grade A large eggs, even if it goes to the producer, represents anywhere near a fair relationship to his costs?

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Speaker, the floor price for eggs is not 30 cents; it is 38 cents. There is, of course, the collecting of these eggs and the delivering of them to the storage point over which, as I have just said, there has been some difficulty during the last few days which I hope we will soon have ironed out.

[Mr. Harkness.]

**Mr. F. D. Shaw (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the minister. Has the minister or the government received protests from egg processors in the province of Alberta with respect to the unfair conditions under which egg products from the United States are marketed in central and eastern Canada?

**Mr. Harkness:** No, Mr. Speaker, I have not received any protests along that line.

ONTARIO FLUE-CURED TOBACCO—ASSISTANCE TO  
MARKETING BOARD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. E. B. Huffman (Kent, Ont.):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister given any assurance of financial assistance in any form to representatives of the Ontario flue-cured tobacco growers' marketing board?

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, when these gentlemen were here to see me some time before Christmas I told them that if they wished to make an application under the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act they would be eligible for financial guarantees under that act, in the same way that other farmers' co-operatives are able to secure funds in order to finance their operations.

**Mr. Huffman:** I understood that the representatives were here only this past week. As the marketing board is not a co-operative association, is there any assurance of assistance of any kind by this government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I understand the marketing board in question is under the jurisdiction of the provincial government; is that not the case? If so, it seems to me that it would be improper to ask that question of the federal Minister of Agriculture.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may say that the tobacco people have set up a co-operative, and they are therefore eligible to come under the co-operative marketing act.

STORAGE OF FOOD AT STRATEGIC POINTS IN CASE  
OF EMERGENCY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. C. Christian (Okanagan Boundary):** I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, of which notice has been given. Has the government given consideration to the establishment of storage facilities in strategic population centres of Canada for the purpose of storing therein food, especially grain, as a national precautionary measure in the public interest; and has any decision been made in this respect?