

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

basis less a refund of 21 cents, and the export deal was made on the 56-cent basis less a refund of 19 cents.

**Mr. Rowe:** Has the Prime Minister any figures as to the amount sold to the institutions?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Yes. Up to the 30th of June the amount the institutions had taken was 1,983,897½ pounds.

**Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):** That is at the 40-cent basis?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** No, they got some of it since the 29th of April at the 56-cent basis. I have not got a break-down as to what quantity they took prior to the 30th of April and what quantity they have taken since. So that hon. members may have more comprehensive information than the statement I have made, perhaps they would like to have the statement as I got it from the agricultural prices support board follow my verbal answer in today's *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** The statement is as follows:

Agricultural Prices Support Board

1954 Butter Account as at June 30, 1955

Total purchases—58-cent per pound basis, Sales 68,898,830½ pounds.

61-cent basis—Regular winter season sales to April 29, 1955, 18,769,042½ pounds.

56-cent basis—Spring exchange program May 1 to June 30, 1955, 9,290,222 pounds (includes estimate of 448,728 pounds arranged but details not complete up to June 30).

Total sales complete or arranged to June 30, 1955, 28,059,264½ pounds.

Estimated inventory 1954 butter as at June 30, 1855, 40,839,566½ pounds.

Note: The board has included sales on regular basis and arranged to provide refunds based on presentation of proper documents as follows:

1,983,897½ pounds to Canadian institutions up to June 30 on refund basis of 21 cents per pound;

314,832 pounds to Canadian exporter upon proof that unsalted butter has been exported on refund basis of 19 cents per pound when transaction is complete.

**TRADE**

**REPORTED SALE OF HIDES AND CELLULOSE TO POLAND**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the discussion that has taken place and the question I asked yesterday or the day before, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can he now tell us at what stage the negotiations are for the sale of hides and cellulose to Poland and whether the arrangements

are similar to those which were employed in connection with the sale of wheat?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** I know nothing at all about negotiations for the sale of cellulose or hides. This is something which, in a free enterprise country, is being arranged by the free enterprise vendors with the purchasers. To our knowledge they have not yet suggested that there should be credit insurance for the purchase prices of what they are attempting to sell for these foreign markets.

**Mr. Drew:** I think the Prime Minister will agree that these are not free enterprise transactions until the government has given the appropriate permission which was actually fully described in connection with the wheat transaction. I am simply asking the question whether there has been any similar application for licences or permits as in the case of wheat.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** There has been no similar application. The wheat transaction was preceded by an application from the representative of the Polish government to know if they could count upon an insurance policy from the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, but there has been no such application in respect of cellulose or hides up to this time.

[Later:]

**SALE OF WHEAT TO POLAND—FURTHER ACTION BY GOVERNMENT TO COMPLETE TRANSACTION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Roland Michener (St. Paul's):** May I direct a question to the Prime Minister? Is there anything further to be done or authorized by the government of Canada which would be necessary to enable the vendors and purchasers to complete the sale to and purchase by Poland of 250,000 tons of Canadian wheat as described by the minister today? If so, what further has to be done?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that the Canadian wheat board is not going to part with its wheat until it is paid for. The purchaser apparently has, or that was the information we had, agreed to pay 15 per cent and was going to borrow 85 per cent from the bank after getting an insurance policy from the Canadian Export Credits Insurance Corporation. Now, what would likely be required would be for the purchaser to go through the proceedings that are necessary to get his insurance policy, to sign the proper note to get his loan from the bank and have the money available to turn over to the wheat board.