

Department of Munitions and Supply through the wartime industries control board, but coal and wood fuel have been with agencies of the Department of Finance.

At one stage in the development of controls this arrangement was satisfactory, but the growing shortages of coal and wood fuel emphasize the desirability of centralized control over all forms of fuel in order to facilitate production planning. Moreover production of wood fuel is closely related to the timber control under the Department of Munitions and Supply. It is therefore proposed to transfer control over both coal and wood fuel to the Department of Munitions and Supply, which will now be responsible for all domestic primary production other than agricultural or fisheries products.

When these rearrangements have been completed responsibility for primary production will be clearly established. The Department of Agriculture or Fisheries will be responsible for the primary production of food, and the Department of Munitions and Supply for the primary output of the mines and forests.

These rearrangements will also serve to clarify the authority of the wartime prices and trade board in the fields of civilian distribution and supply. The board is responsible for imports for civilian consumption, for manufacturing of civilian goods and for wholesale and retail distribution and has full responsibility in all matters of price and consumer rationing with the exception of gasoline rationing which remains with the Department of Munitions and Supply.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): In what material respect does that alter the relationship that has heretofore existed between the wartime prices and trade board and the Department of Agriculture?

Mr. ILSLEY: It is a clarification.

Mr. GRAYDON: It is a clarification, but is there any actual change in the relationship between the Department of Agriculture and the wartime prices and trade board?

Mr. ILSLEY: I do not think that I can give any further explanation than is contained in the statement.

Mr. GRAYDON: If it is a clarification, then there is no actual change in principle in the relationship.

Mr. ILSLEY: This is just one instance of the application of these principles. Certain producer subsidies have been paid. They have been recommended and paid by the wartime

[Mr. Ilesley.]

prices and trade board agencies and hereafter recommendations with regard to subsidies will come from the Department of Agriculture because of the clarification of their position as being charged with primary responsibility for agricultural production.

Mr. GRAYDON: It may be a clarification in the public mind of the relationship between the wartime prices and trade board and the Department of Agriculture, but the minister well knows that throughout Canada there has been a strong plea, particularly on the part of the agricultural interests, for the setting up of a food ministry and a food board under it to avoid the mistakes of the past which have led to the conditions that now exist. Did the minister in his statement really mean that there was to be some change in the relationship between the board and the Department of Agriculture? It seems to me that mere clarification is not sufficient to cover the situation as it exists.

#### CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

##### QUESTION OF REFERENCE OF ANNUAL REPORT TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): I wish to direct two or three questions to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. On Tuesday last he tabled the report of the Canadian Wheat Board for the year 1941-42. I should like to know, first, how he proposes to have this report considered this year and what opportunity will be given members to get information with respect to it. May I suggest to him that the report be referred to a special committee of, say, ten or eleven, rather than to the agriculture committee, which was very unwieldy last year in dealing with the report. I wonder if he would take that suggestion into consideration.

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The annual report of the Canadian Wheat Board is at present in the hands of the printers. I expect to have it for distribution to members by the end of this week or possibly to-morrow. It has been my intention to have the report referred to the committee on agriculture. I shall take into consideration the suggestion made by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle.

Mr. PERLEY: One more question. The minister announced last week the new policy with regard to marketing of production. Can he indicate whether there will be any special