

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): The hon. member was kind enough to send me a copy of his question. The reply is as follows:

The supply of these products depends directly upon the demand for meat products and the supplies of livestock going to meat packing plants. At the present time supplies are about equal to demand. For some months the general situation in regard to bone meal has been that supplies have been adequate to meet demand.

In regard to meat meal, supplies in relation to demand were short about six weeks ago. Since that time supplies and demand have leveled off and weekly market reports have quoted gradually declining prices. This indicates that the supply is now just about equal to demand. While there may have been local shortages at certain times, this is the general picture across Canada. Indications for the next few weeks are that supply and demand will be approximately equal.

Mr. Pearkes: I wish to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he tell me what the situation is with regard to fish meal? I understand that a similar shortage exists in that type of meal.

Mr. Gardiner: I shall have to take the question as notice. Because of the fact that the two meals are more or less interchangeable, I assume that the position is about the same. I will get the correct information.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

OBSERVANCE OF TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. B. McKay (Weyburn): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence, a copy of which I have sent to him. What plans has the government made to mark suitably the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Air Force?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): This anniversary will take place on April 1. Arrangements have been made for press displays and a number of radio programs, and for that we are indebted to the co-operation of newspapers, national advertisers, and others. There will be an investiture of air force personnel at government house and in other places across the country, and at every air force station, establishment and auxiliary establishment there will be ceremonies of one type or another.

[Mr. Zaplitny.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

EASTER ADJOURNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Max Campbell (The Battlefords): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the government made any decision as to the date on which the house may adjourn for the Easter recess, and what the length of the recess will be?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): The government has made no decision about the proposal it will submit to the house for the house's decision, but I hope to have that proposal shortly.

HOUSING

PROTECTION OF VETERAN'S EQUITY IN CASE OF ILLNESS, ETC.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): On Thursday last the hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) asked if ways and means were being considered by which a veteran buying a house under any of the government plans could be protected from losing his equity in the house in the event of illness, low wages or work stoppage.

To the extent that the question applies to loans under the National Housing Act, the relationship between the veteran and the lending institution is that of mortgagor and mortgagee. In the normal course of operations, if the borrower encounters financial difficulty, every effort is made to rearrange his payments so that he may maintain the equity in his house. This is usually done through a rearrangement or deferment of payments. If, however, there is no possibility that the borrower can maintain the payments, even after rearrangement, the lending institution proceeds to realize on its security.

The same circumstances exist in the case of a sale of a wartime housing unit to a purchaser.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE OF ASBESTOS MINERS IN QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR MEDIATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Will he state whether he has received any request for mediation in the current asbestos strike, or any representations of a similar nature? Will he also state