

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

could let us know now, with regard to the 3,000 troops who are being trained at Valcartier or will be trained there, how many will be trained in the use of long-range mortars such as he has been talking about? If the minister cannot give me the answer now, it being almost ten o'clock I wonder whether we could stand this item over until tomorrow, when I am sure his officials will be able to dig out the answer and let us have it. This is a matter of training in being at the present time or training projected, and if it is training projected this information should be as readily available as if it were training in being.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Pugh: Mr. Chairman, will the minister say whether he will study this question overnight, it being ten o'clock now? I would like to have the answer. I believe we are entitled to know the use that is going to be made of this mortar range and how many troops will be trained on it. The minister probably has the answer now, if he would stop reading his last speech.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Chairman?

Item stands.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

• (10:00 p.m.)

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

[*Translation*]

**AGRICULTURE—QUEBEC SUGGESTIONS
ON CROP INSURANCE**

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, it is to the Minister of Agriculture that I am directing my question tonight with regard to the federal-provincial conference held a few days ago and concerning the Crop Insurance Act and its application to the province of Quebec and elsewhere.

During the last election campaign, we advocated the establishment of a dairy commission. We also advocated the establishment of a feed grain board for eastern Canada and British Columbia. We advocated amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act so as to include farmers. We also advocated making the Crop Insurance Act more flexible so that Quebec farmers might take advantage thereof.

Last year, the situation was disastrous for several farmers of the province of Quebec

because the crops were poor. Thus, arose the necessity and urgency of extending the provisions of the Crop Insurance Act to farmers of the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I shall point out, before putting more specifically the question that I wish to address to the Minister of Agriculture, that the problem of distribution will soon be before us; I want to mention the fact that, even if the new electoral distribution has become a demographic necessity, the voice of the farmer is nevertheless threatened by this redistribution problem. For instance, I am thinking of the fact that the constituency of Lotbinière, which is the one I represent and which is essentially rural, will become a mostly urban constituency.

This could also apply to the constituency of Bellechasse, in which the town of Montmagny will be integrated. It could apply to the constituency of Nicolet-Yamaska, which will be absorbed by that of Drummond.

Consequently, the voice of the farmer is threatened by the fact that members will no longer be interested in letting it be heard so loudly, since the constituencies will become more or less urban.

That is why, during this short debate, I take this opportunity to call attention to this situation which could be dangerous and to say, in my capacity of member for Lotbinière, that I shall make every effort, along with all my colleagues from rural constituencies, to have this threat removed.

I am asking the minister what are the results of the last federal-provincial conference on crop insurance.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, crop insurance, as the hon. member is no doubt aware, comes under provincial jurisdiction. The provinces are responsible for the organization and administration of these programs. The federal act provides that Canada may assist the provinces in implementing their crop insurance programs through contributions to administrative costs and payments necessary to make these programs self-supporting. In addition, Canada can agree to re-insure a substantial part of the risks the provinces incur under these plans.

Certain provinces were hesitant to establish crop insurance because their farmers stated the indemnities currently authorized under federal legislation are insufficient to be worth while. Some provinces, in addition, criticized federal legislation for not allowing

[Mr. Pugh.]