

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

answer the questions which were turned aside yesterday by the Prime Minister concerning the setbacks suffered by Canada in international grain markets? In particular I direct his attention and replies to the questions relating to the loss of the sale of some 800,000 tons of wheat apparently secured by France in dealing with Mainland China. Would he also explain why Canada apparently was not represented at the China Spring Fair in Canton where this sale seems to have been announced?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that in one swoop I can answer all the questions to which oblique reference was made by the Leader of the Opposition. But I will try to deal with one or two.

First of all may I assure hon. members that the government of Canada, through a member of the Trade Commission Service, was in fact represented at the fair in question. I would also like to assure hon. members that the discussions between the Canadian Wheat Board and the Chinese authorities are in fact going on at all times, that there is very close contact for specific discussions at all times for the sale of wheat by Canada to China, and that our interests in that regard are being very well protected by the Canadian Wheat Board.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, the minister of course did not explain why Canada missed this sale, but could he tell the house the rank of the official who represented Canada at this fair?

**Mr. Lang:** I do not have the specific rank of the official, Mr. Speaker, but I shall be glad to obtain it. The Leader of the Opposition said I did not say anything about this particular sale. Of course sales by France to China are not by any means new. They have been going on ever since 1961. Australia, Canada and France have been prime suppliers of wheat to China during that time, and the fact of a particular sale by France to China does not affect sales of wheat by Canada to China.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, in my original question addressed to the Prime Minister yesterday I asked whether the acting minister would take the opportunity on motions today, 24 hours later, to give information concerning why Canada let this specific order slip through her fingers. The minister has had 24 hours in which to obtain the information: I ask him to give me information now. If the Canadian

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Wheat Board, as he has said, is in constant touch with these matters they must have known several days ago why we lost the sale, and how much.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I believe I have really covered the situation of sales, but I regret indeed not having responded in exactly the way the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings asked his question, if in fact the other day he managed one that was in order.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, the minister obviously is following the example of the Prime Minister in getting smart in his answers.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Hees:** I would ask him now to get that information and would he please report tomorrow on the question I asked yesterday.

[Later:]

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister see that the minister answers tomorrow the question he assured me would be answered today; would he do that? Come on; you can stand up.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

WHEAT—SALES BY FRANCE TO MAINLAND  
CHINA BELOW I.G.A. PRICE

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio. Can he tell us at how much below the International Grains Arrangement price was the wheat offered that was sold by France to China, and has the government protested officially to France or to those officials who are responsible for administering the International Grains Arrangement?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, precise details on the sale to France from China have not been divulged. When these details are received by us we will certainly look at them in the light of the collective undertaking by exporters to strengthen international wheat prices, and we will take any appropriate action necessary to see that I.G.A. prices are implemented.

**Mr. Gleave:** As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us whether