

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

wheat are needed by the wheat board to fill present sales demands, and what percentage or quantity, and how substantial is this demand?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the requirements at the seaports vary from week to week and from month to month, depending upon the nature of the sales. Last fall there was a shortage of Durum wheat at the seaports, and also a considerable shortage of oats at the lakehead. I know we are always being asked for offerings of Durum wheat, and No. 3 northern has been popular. But those are matters entirely in the hands of the wheat board. Bulletins are put out to country elevators giving certain shipping instructions for particular grains and grades of grain.

[Later:]

## INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM PAYMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. E. G. McCullough (Moose Mountain):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce in reference to the interim payment of approximately \$60 million which is now being paid by the Canadian wheat board to producers. Can the minister state what will be the approximate payment to individual farmers?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** It depends a good deal on whether we are talking about a large or a small farm; but if the farmer would multiply the number of bushels of wheat that he delivered last year by 11 cents he would approximate very closely what is coming to him.

## GRAIN

## DISPOSAL OF WESTERN SURPLUS

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Yesterday at this time, in answer to a question by the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), I made a statement with respect to the marketing of grain in western Canada. Arising from my statement, certain questions were asked by hon. members and I undertook to provide further information.

The hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Harkness) asked for the breakdown of the 410 million bushels which I stated had been marketed by producers from August 1, 1953, to date. The breakdown is as follows: wheat, 265 million bushels; oats, 65 million bushels; barley, 66.5 million bushels; rye, 6.8 million bushels; flaxseed, 6.7 million bushels, making a total of 410 million bushels.

[Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain).]

The hon. member for Prince Albert asked for an estimate of the number of bushels of grain which will be in farmers' hands when harvesting of the 1954 crop commences. Questionnaires completed for the wheat board by elevator agents and others indicated that there would be some 900 million bushels of deliverable grain this year, including 209 million bushels that were in farmers' hands in western Canada on August 1 last. If the total marketing figure during the present crop year of 600 million bushels is achieved—that is the figure I used in my statement yesterday—there will be approximately 300 million bushels in farmers' hands on the prairies on August 1 of this year. This will compare, as I have said, with 209 million bushels last year at the same time and represents, I think, a good performance, considering the obvious accumulative effect of three successive bumper crops.

(Translation):

## ST. JOHNS ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE

## QUESTION AS TO STAFF

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. W. Dufresne (Quebec West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton). It is supplementary to the other questions I have asked him regarding St. Johns Military College.

I have already asked the minister if the five professors hired for St. Johns Military College were bilingual. The minister first replied that there was no truth in my assertion.

**An hon. Member:** Your forty minutes are up.

**Mr. Dufresne:** Later, I placed two other questions on the order paper in connection with the same matter and the minister replied that they spoke only one language. Therefore, this afternoon, I would like to know which of the two answers I should accept.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let me say to the hon. member that the next time he asks questions on the orders of the day, he might perhaps dispense with summing up the questions he has already asked. I would like the hon. member to co-operate in this respect.

**Mr. Dufresne:** Mr. Speaker, I am surely not objecting, but I thought it necessary to give a brief summary in order to get a definite answer to the question I asked this afternoon.