

of trading to-day and to continue until further notice. This action is taken as a temporary measure pending a full discussion with the government.

This action means that until further notice it is not permissible to trade in the Winnipeg futures market at less than the prices mentioned, namely, May 70½, July 71½, October 73½. It should be made clear that trading may proceed normally at or above these prices.

On Saturday, May 11, May wheat closed in Winnipeg, at 89½ cents. On Saturday, May 18, May wheat sold as low at 60½. The break in the Chicago wheat futures market has been even more drastic, their May wheat closing on Saturday, May 11 at \$1.08½ and trading as low as 76½ cents on Saturday, May 18.

While several factors have entered into the situation it seems clear that the changed war picture has been a predominant influence in the decline in commodity and securities markets. The fear of lost markets and the general financial unsettlement have created a feeling of uncertainty and resulted in general and drastic liquidation on the part of holders of wheat. In addition to the liquidation mentioned there has been considerable selling by exporters against contracts which were cancelled on account of the purchasing countries becoming involved in the war. It is needless to say that the Canadian wheat board took no action which would in any way aggravate the situation.

This whole matter is now the subject of discussions between the wheat committee of the cabinet and the Canadian wheat board.

INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM PAYMENTS ON 1939 CROP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ROBERT FAIR (Battle River): As the group with which I am associated has already officially requested that an interim payment be made on the 1939 wheat crop, and according to a press report of March 21 last the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, speaking at Wilkie, Saskatchewan, promised that the Liberal government, if returned at the pending election, would introduce amendments to the wheat board act providing that an interim payment of ten to twelve cents a bushel would be made on the 1939 wheat crop, I would ask the government whether this payment will be made under an amendment to the wheat board legislation or under the War Measures Act.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The question might be allowed to stand as a question on the order paper.

Question stands.
(Mr. MacKinnon.)

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

SUGGESTED INTERNMENT OF ENEMY SYMPATHIZERS—COMMITTEE OF DEFENCE OF CANADA REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). The attorney general of Ontario has proposed that subversive elements in Canada should be placed in internment camps, in the same manner as alien enemies. I believe this proposal has been made to the minister, and that he has stated he would make a statement in the house. Is the minister prepared to make such a statement in the house to-day, or if not, when?

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): I am pleased to say that I am in a position to make a statement which will answer my hon. friend's question.

The hon. G. D. Conant, attorney general of Ontario, wrote to me under date of May 14, 1940, respecting subversive activities and the defence of Canada regulations. As, however, his letter was given to and published by the press, I think it appropriate that I should make a statement to the house; so I anticipated the wishes of my hon. friend.

Mr. Conant suggests in effect that all persons, whether British or aliens, who are accused of subversive activities be detained without trial, but subject to what amounts to an appeal, under the authority of an order of the Minister of Justice, in the same manner as enemy aliens are detained.

I may point out that the position of the two classes, that is, offenders against certain regulations, and enemy aliens, is entirely different. In the case of enemy aliens their nationality is known and a trial is not necessary or desirable. In the case of those in the other class it is essential, under the present regulations and under our system of justice, that, subject possibly to exceptions in particular cases, they should be proven guilty in a court of law in the usual manner. The regulations contemplate and provide for this procedure.

The powers contained in regulation 21, referred to by Mr. Conant, would under the present regulations be exercised by the Minister of Justice only with regard to persons other than enemy aliens and exceptional cases or where an emergency or extraordinary situation existed and no other appropriate or effective procedure was available.

It may be, however, that an amendment to the regulations might be desirable whereby after conviction in the trial court bail would be prohibited and thus the convicted person would not be at liberty pending any appeal

that might be instituted. This suggestion, together with others, will be referred to the committee of this house to be set up for the purpose of considering the Defence of Canada regulations.

The constitutional responsibility for the internment of enemy aliens rests with the dominion authorities, and the procedure adopted with respect thereto is not applicable to prosecution for subversive activities. The constitutional responsibility for the administration of justice, which includes the enforcement of the present regulations dealing with subversive activities, rests with the provincial authorities, and I feel confident that they will continue to carry out their responsibilities in this respect as they have in the past.

I may say, in view of the fact that a committee of this house is to be set up for the purpose of considering the defence of Canada regulations, that it is my intention to suggest to the committee that it consider, amongst other things, the whole question of the enforcement of the regulations and the procedure therefor.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I am in receipt of a communication from the mayor of Vancouver which states that there is considerable feeling in that city against enemy aliens and enemy sympathizers. The communication further expresses the fear that unless there is an assurance from the federal government that adequate measures are being taken to cope with subversive activities of such people, citizens may organize for that purpose. Under the circumstances I think a statement from the minister would be useful.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I think, Mr. Speaker, that the statement I have just made largely answers my hon. friend's question. However, I may assure him that the government, through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other agencies, is keeping close supervision on the persons referred to in the telegram from Vancouver. May I note, however, that until a few days ago all the criticisms which I received on behalf of the government as Minister of Justice were to the effect that the defence of Canada regulations were much too arbitrary and severe, and that they should be altered in that respect. Apparently there has been a change in public opinion, and now the criticism is the other way. The whole matter, I am pleased to say, will be considered by a committee of the house. The original intention in appointing the committee was to give an opportunity of expression to those who criticized the regulations because they were too drastic. Apparently now the committee will hear instead those who find the regulations not drastic enough.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, May 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lapointe (Lotbinière) for an address to His Excellency, the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am deeply conscious of the responsibilities that devolve upon me at this time. In approaching a discussion of the resolution now before the house I cannot disguise from you, sir, or the members of this house, that my mind, and I hope and trust the mind of each of us, is filled with anxiety over what has taken place on the other side of the ocean during the past few days. I intend to go quite fully into the question of Canada's war effort at a later stage of my remarks; at the moment I desire only to say that I believe we are engaged in a just war. If ever in the history of mankind there was a righteous war it is my firm belief that Canada is now participating in a war of high spiritual values, a war for the preservation of the maximum of individual liberty and indeed for the preservation of our Christian civilization. Because the background and the objects of the war in which we are engaged are of such importance it occurs to me that it is time for clear thinking on the part of each of us; and may I say it is time for reasonably straight talking. This afternoon I shall approach this question from no partisan point of view but rather, I hope, from the point of view of a Canadian national whose country, together with that of our gallant allies, is confronted with one of the greatest problems of our time.

First, however, there are some things which it is customary to say on this occasion. Already, Mr. Speaker, reference has been made to your election, and you will pardon me if I do not repeat now what I said previously. We all wish you well in the discharge of your public duties.

I come now to a brief consideration of the speeches we heard on Friday last. I am sure the two young gentlemen who distinguished themselves on that occasion will pardon me if I do not follow all the ramifications of their addresses. I want to congratulate them both, particularly on the composure they displayed in addressing this house for the first time. I confess to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of this house, that it was a long time before I caught the atmosphere of this chamber to an equal degree, if I ever did, and I have heard other hon. members, some of whom have taken prominent parts in the