

Inquiries of the Ministry

we should begin to act upon it. Therefore I asked him to arrange a meeting with me, which was held in Ottawa when he came to the Columbia river treaty meetings.

We have agreed that he and his engineers shall review the situation, and it is rather likely that they will be making an application to us under the Canada Water Conservation Act in respect of the improvement of the dikes in that area. I believe the engineering will take some six months.

With regard to the current snow situation, snow in the Columbia basin area is exceedingly high, some 40 per cent higher than last year. Our current reports in respect of the Fraser valley basin indicate that snow is not much higher than the ten year average.

AGRICULTURE

STEPS TO IMPROVE POSITION OF EASTERN FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture?

In view of the fact that the Minister of Agriculture stated on many occasions that he was studying several bills intended to help eastern farmers, can he tell the house if he is through studying one or two of them and could he announce their contents to the farmers while he is completing his study of the others?

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest that this is a question for the order paper.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Megantic): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister tell the house if the government is ready to give federal subsidies, through the medium of the provincial governments, to eastern farmers so they may purchase seed grain early this spring?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure if the hon. gentleman will put that question on the order paper he will get a very detailed answer.

Mr. Langlois: Mr. Speaker, I have another question which I will put to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. According to a report in the *Montreal Gazette* this morning a gift of barley has been made to Korea because of a shortage of grain there. Is the Minister

of Trade and Commerce ready to do something similar for the eastern provinces if the need arises?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, so far as I am aware there have been no gifts by the government of barley to Korea.

Mr. Langlois: Then who issued the report that 30,000 pounds of barley have been given to Korea because of a severe shortage of grain?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member tell the house if he is basing his question on a newspaper report?

Mr. Langlois: A newspaper report, and I am asking whether or not it is a fact.

Mr. Speaker: The question is out of order. [*Translation*]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct another question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Since the minister does not seem to have any bill to introduce at this time when seeding is about to start, could he assure Canadian farmers that they will not be poorer this year after they have reaped their crops than they are now before seeding?

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

WORLD FAIR

INQUIRY AS TO SALARY OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the right hon. Prime Minister a question of which I gave him notice last year? I hope he will be in a position to give me an answer today.

Has the Prime Minister taken a decision about the salary to be paid to the commissioner general and the deputy commissioner general of the world fair?

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: This also seems to be a proper question for the order paper.

Mr. Valade: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am afraid the hon. member has not been here in the last day