

*Inquiries of the Ministry***WHEAT****INQUIRY AS TO INITIATION OF FUTURES MARKET**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the minister's attention been drawn to the statement made on the farm radio forum by the United States assistant secretary of agriculture to the effect that consideration is being given by Canada to initiating the futures market again for trading in wheat? Will the minister assure the wheat producers that no consideration is being given to opening the Winnipeg grain exchange for trading in wheat?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The attention of the minister was drawn to this article a few days ago by the hon. member. I had not been able to see the article, but I now have it from him. I do not think it is worded quite as strongly as is suggested in the hon. member's statement. The speaker said he understood the subject might be considered. I may say it has not been considered by myself, and as far as I know no consideration is being given to it by the government.

(Translation):

POST OFFICE**INQUIRY AS TO 40-HOUR WEEK**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Dufresne (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Postmaster General (Mr. Cote) one or two questions. First, at what date will the 40-hour week be implemented in the case of postal employees, and will these 40 hours extend over five consecutive days?

In the second place, when new hours are put into effect—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member might wait for an answer to his first question and then ask the second.

Hon. Alcide Cote (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. The five-day 40-hour week will be implemented on the date which has been announced and which was discussed during a recent debate; it is April 1, 1954. In regard to the second part of the question, the answer is, not necessarily.

Mr. Dufresne: When these new hours are in force, could the Postmaster General tell me whether they will apply to all postal employees throughout Canada, including those in Quebec?

[Mr. Howe (Port Arthur).]

Mr. Cote: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wants to be patient, I believe that within a day or two the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) will make an official statement on the matter, after the civil service commission has submitted its report to the treasury board.

(Text):

Mr. Knowles: May I direct to the Minister of Finance a supplementary question on this subject? Is his own city of Montreal on the list for the five-day 40-hour week for post office workers?

Mr. Abbott: I hope so.

(Translation):

REMARKS CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF UNILINGUAL CHEQUES TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Dufresne (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask another question of the Postmaster General (Mr. Cote). First, is the minister aware that students employed in a temporary capacity during the Christmas season at the Verdun post office were paid with unilingual cheques?

Secondly, has the minister taken steps so that the cheques printed for his department will hereafter be printed in the two official languages of the country?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a question of an urgent character. I believe that the hon. member should have it placed on the order paper.

(Text):

EXPLOSIVES ACT**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING IMPORTS, OFFENCES, CERTIFICATES, ETC.**

The house resumed, from Tuesday, February 9, consideration in committee of Bill No. 83, to amend the Explosives Act—Mr. Prudham—Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

On clause 4—*Authorized explosives only.*

The Chairman: When the committee rose on Tuesday we were considering clause 4. Shall the clause carry?

Mr. Nowlan: No.

Mr. Prudham: Shortly before ten o'clock on Tuesday, when this bill was last before the committee, the hon. member for Calgary North made inquiries about regulations applying to the purchase and use of explosives by a farmer. No permit is required to purchase explosives in any quantity, except when the purchase is made for resale. If the quantity bought exceeds 150 pounds the explosives will have to be stored in a magazine and licensed under this act. If the