

Questions

grain purchases made by the Department of Agriculture of the province of Saskatchewan, in connection with relief and seed distributions during the period extending from September 1, 1934, to present date?

Mr. DUNNING:

1. The dominion government has no knowledge in detail of the transactions referred to. At the request of the province of Saskatchewan, the dominion government consented to Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers, Limited, acting as agents of the province in connection with the purchase of a certain quantity of wheat and oats, and contracts for the purchase and future delivery thereof, for account of the province in connection with its agricultural relief operations. Order in council P.C. 975 of 12th April, 1935, passed pursuant to the Relief Act, 1935, guaranteed payment of bank advances which Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers, Limited, had obtained or would obtain in order to finance the transactions. The advances have not yet been liquidated in full and it is understood that negotiations are proceeding between the company and the province. Verbal discussions have taken place from time to time between representatives of the dominion and the province with reference to the outstanding balance.

2. The matter has not been the subject of any communications between the Minister of Finance and the province.

3. A contingent liability exists so long as any bank advances made under P.C. 975 of 12th April, 1935, are outstanding.

*BANK OF CANADA

Mr. POULIOT:

What powers does the Bank of Canada presently exercise and which, (a) the Minister of Finance could exercise, and (b) which he could not exercise, prior to the establishment of such bank?

Mr. DUNNING: With reference to this question, it seems to me to be a matter of examining two statutes, the Finance Act and the Bank of Canada Act. The hon. member who asks the question is a distinguished member of the legal profession, and the statutes speak for themselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: Answered.

*CLASSIFICATION OF UNEMPLOYED

Mr. POULIOT:

1. On June 19, 1935, did his honour the Honourable J. L. Bowman, then Speaker of the House of Commons and in that capacity, return to the undersigned a petition and an attached report on the classification of the unemployed according to their trades or previous occupations?

[Mr. E. E. Perley.]

2. Did the said Honourable J. L. Bowman receive the said petition and report which were returned to him on the same day by the undersigned?

3. Did the said Honourable J. L. Bowman again return the said petition and report to the undersigned on June 20, 1935?

Mr. RINFRET: In this question the hon. member for Témiscouata asks whether correspondence has been exchanged between the former Speaker of the house and himself. Surely he has the information and should not expect us to ask him whether he received such correspondence. I think that question should be dropped.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dropped.

*ACTING PRIME MINISTER

Mr. POULIOT:

During what periods was the right honourable member for Argenteuil acting prime minister each year from August, 1930, to October 23, 1935?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think the hon. member should expect an answer to that question unless the hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley) wishes to reply to it. I suggest it be dropped.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dropped.

*OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. CHURCH:

1. Has the government any information as to whether Canada will continue any further this year at the Olympic Games?

2. Has the government made any suggestions that they be discontinued?

Mr. RINFRET: The answer to the first question is no, and to the second question, no.

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS
FOR RETURNS

CORBIN, B.C., COAL MINES

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Has the government received a request for cooperation for the reopening of the coal mines at Corbin, British Columbia? If so, from whom?

2. Has the government received representations from the Coal Miners' Union of Corbin, British Columbia, asking for a judicial inquiry into the origin, conduct and handling of the Corbin strike?

3. If the two preceding questions are answered in the affirmative, what answer has the government given in each instance?

4. Has the government received complaints regarding the treatment of certain coal miners arrested during the Corbin strike and sentenced to imprisonment in the jail at Nelson, British Columbia?

5. Would the government consider referring such complaint to the royal commission appointed to investigate penal institutions?

Mr. RINFRET: Return tabled herewith.