

Agricultural Products Act

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): So far as I know, no butter has yet been bought, which means that it has not yet reached 58 cents on the markets in which it is purchased.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN

PUBLIC SERVICE—NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES,
SALARIES, ETC.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Douglas G. Ross (St. Paul's): Can the Secretary of State advise me when I may expect to receive a return which was ordered by the house forty-three days ago?

Hon. Colin Gibson (Secretary of State): I shall be glad to look into the matter.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT

EXTENSION OF OPERATION FOR A PERIOD OF
ONE YEAR

The house resumed from Friday, March 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Gardiner that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Agricultural Products Act to extend the operation of the act for a period of one year.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): May I be allowed to make one remark at this time? As hon. members know, this resolution has to do with legislation which will expire if it is not renewed. From conversations with several hon. members on both sides of the house I judge there is some hope that we may dispose of all these measures by tomorrow night and not have to sit on Saturday, and that when we meet on Monday, having returned to the normal hours of sitting, we will take up the north Atlantic security pact. In order to make this possible it would be most desirable to have the resolution passed and the bill introduced so that it can be considered tomorrow. Hon. members who had intended to speak on the bill will have an opportunity of doing so when it is before the house for second reading. By so proceeding there would be nothing in the rules to prevent the bill from being disposed of tomorrow, but if the bill does not receive first reading today it will not be possible to have second reading tomorrow. I do not wish to curtail debate, but I suggest that the bill be given first reading; then the debate can continue and follow its normal course on the bill itself.

Mr. Bentley: On a question of privilege, I moved the adjournment of the debate last Friday night. I am perfectly willing to agree to what the Prime Minister has said, and not carry on the debate at this time, if everybody else will adopt the same attitude.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. Drew: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bentley: I had the adjournment of the debate on Friday night.

Mr. Knowles: I hope all the Toronto Tories will be here on Saturday.

Mr. T. J. Bentley (Swift Current): When this matter was being discussed before, the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Ross) spoke and wandered far afield, even getting into the wheat board, the wheat board act, and the Anglo-Canadian wheat agreement. I shall not do that. He exposed the attitude of his party at that time. I think the attempt of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) just now to take precedence in the debate indicates—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, I wish to make it clear that what I rose to say was that there were remarks to be made as to the principle involved. I had no intention of seeking precedence, and I would not for anything try to deprive the house of the pearls of wisdom which we are now receiving.

Mr. Bentley: There is an old adage as to whom you should not cast your pearls before.

Mr. Graydon: They are right around you there.

Mr. Bentley: They are on my right. When the leader of the opposition rose again I fully expected he would indulge in the only practice he has ever indulged in in the house. Every time he rises to speak he takes a piece of constitutional soap and has a public bath in the waters of provincial autonomy.

Mr. Drew: Cheer for your team.

Mr. Fraser: It is getting under your hide.

Mr. Bentley: No, it is not getting under my hide.

Mr. Thatcher: Plain obstruction; that is all.

Mr. Bentley: When the hon. member for Souris was speaking, I think he made it clear