

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. R. O. Campney (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) having just returned after several days absence, and as I received notice of the hon. member's question just before entering the house, perhaps I might be permitted to deal with it.

I would say in the first place that each of the services has established through a set of mental and physical tests a general system of examination of recruits to give effect to a policy of enrolling the right type of service personnel. Whatever those standards may be, I can assure my hon. friend that they are such that those who pass them must be far beyond the mental age of ten. The tests are carefully worked out and have resulted extremely well in most cases. Of course there will always be borderline cases wherever the line is drawn. Some borderline cases turn out very well, and some not so well. This is one of the unfortunate ones.

I would like to add that I believe the average type of Canadian citizen enrolled in the services, whether he has served in Korea, in Europe or here in Canada, has achieved excellent results and has given an excellent account of himself.

As to the second question, my reply would be that I think most hon. members and the public generally agree that the standard of assistance accorded to our unfortunate citizens here in Canada is probably higher than in any other country of the world.

TRADEPOSSIBILITY OF INCREASING LIMIT ON
DUTY-FREE PURCHASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance arising out of a news report of this morning. In view of the proposal by President Eisenhower that duty-free tourist purchases in Canada be increased from \$500 to \$1,000, is the Canadian government prepared to increase the value of duty-free goods that Canadians can purchase in the United States?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I am afraid my hon. friend will have to restrain his curiosity until next Tuesday night.

FISHERIESDISCUSSION OF EXPORT AND MARKETING
PROBLEMS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Would

he care to make a statement as to the purpose of the convening here in Ottawa tomorrow of officials representing the fisheries of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec, as well as fish exported from Newfoundland.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there were other applications by representatives of the fisheries for a meeting with the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair). My own meeting is concerned with an organization in Newfoundland known as NAFEL. That is the organization which has charge of the exporting of Newfoundland salt cod to foreign countries. We are going into a discussion of marketing problems for the next twelve months, and the meeting tomorrow is for that purpose.

Mr. Bell: May I ask a supplementary question? Will there be any fisheries officials from any of the other provinces, besides NAFEL?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): So far as I know, no other officials have been invited. If they are here they will perhaps be admitted. But invitations went to NAFEL only.

[Later:]

DIVISION OF PINK SALMON RUN—ANNOUNCEMENT
BY MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Esquimalt-Saanich): May I ask the Minister of Fisheries if he would inform the house as to the progress that is being made in connection with the international proposed division of the pink salmon run, concerning which he made an announcement in Vancouver last week.

Hon. James Sinclair (Minister of Fisheries): No progress has been made. We have made inquiries and had discussions with the United States but as yet there has been no definite progress in setting up a commission similar, for example, to the international sockeye salmon commission.

WHEAT

GRADES REQUIRED TO FILL PRESENT DEMANDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. McCullough (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the minister's statement yesterday with respect to the disposal of western wheat, wherein he stated that the wheat board is at present going to call for No. 2 wheat, would he inform the house what grade or grades of