

Inquiries of the Ministry

wheat at the end of this crop year. However, we will certainly arrive at the eight-bushel quota. I am still confident that before the next crop starts to move we will have off the farms all the grain that producers now wish to deliver. But I think the date of July 31 that I mentioned in my earlier prediction will not be met.

Mr. Coldwell: Are there many points where the eight-bushel quota will be in effect on July 31?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The eight-bushel quota will be in effect everywhere by July 31, I expect. The great majority of the points have the eight-bushel quota today. The lowest quota is five bushels, and some are on six bushels; but I expect that by the 31st of July all points will be on the eight-bushel quota.

Mr. Coldwell: But it will be some time beyond that before the quota will be lifted on the grain now on the farms in storage?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I would not like to speak about lifting the quota; but there are points in Saskatchewan that have had heavy crops for a number of years and where the eight-bushel quota will not serve to affect delivery of the grain on the farms. They are mostly the larger farms, in the Regina area.

Mr. Coldwell: I might say in my constituency there are farms with a lot of grain.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Yours is a very prosperous district.

Mr. Coldwell: No, not a very prosperous district; on that quota it could not be prosperous.

[Later:]

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I would like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce a supplementary question arising out of the answer he gave to the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar. Can the minister assure the house that, in addition to having an eight-bushel quota in our marketing points, sufficient box cars will be available so that farmers may in fact take advantage of the eight-bushel quota? It is nice to have an eight-bushel quota, but it does not mean much unless there are enough box cars.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I can assure my hon. friend that the difficulty is not in the number of box cars engaged in moving grain in western Canada. The distribution of box cars is closing in on the points that today have delivery surpluses; and I am afraid those points will be flooded with box cars in the next two or three weeks, and then

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my hon. friend will have nothing to complain about in the house—a very sorry situation.

Mr. Argue: I take it from the minister's answer that he is saying that the farmers will be able to market an eight-bushel quota?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Yes.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Johnson (Kindersley): May I ask a question supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar. Can the minister give an explanation for the fact that there have been outstanding shipping orders in many points in western Canada for some time? For example, at Kindersley there have been orders for 50 cars and no box cars seem to be available.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): That particular problem has not been called to my attention but I shall make inquiries.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

INTEGRATION OF MALTA WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the Canadian government has been officially informed of negotiations which may apparently lead to the integration of Malta with the United Kingdom. If so, has the Canadian government yet expressed on behalf of Canada any opinion regarding this latest inspiring evidence of the flexibility and adaptability of the British commonwealth relationship, and of the very real ties both of sentiment and of material advantage which unite its peoples?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I have not seen any official information. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) informs me that none has come to the department. Although of course we would express friendly interest in and satisfaction with a move which is something which would be entirely within the jurisdiction and discretion of United Kingdom authorities, we would not wish to do anything that might appear as impertinent, when it is realized that we will certainly make known to them our gratification at the fact that they have found it possible and of advantage to do it.

Mr. Fulton: Apparently there has been no official information. I asked the question in the light of a report in this morning's press to the effect that Prime Minister Eden had