

stand that the request was urgent. Is he able to give the house to-day an account of the prices of seed potatoes prevailing in various centres throughout Canada?

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I took that matter up with the wartime prices and trade board and they agreed to wire the various cities to try to get the information. They cannot get it immediately; it will take a few days to obtain it, but when it is procured I will give such information as I get.

Mr. BLACKMORE: May I ask the minister one or two more questions bearing on this very important matter of the price of seed potatoes? Can the minister tell the house how many potatoes are in storage in Canada? What I wish to know is whether the wartime prices and trade board or any food supply board or other agency that has this matter in charge, have any idea how many seed potatoes or potatoes of any kind are in storage. It is important that we should know how large a quantity of potatoes is available or can be made available to people who may plant potatoes.

Mr. ILSLEY: I believe the agricultural statistics branch have some record monthly of the quantities of potatoes in the country. Beyond that I do not know what statistics are available.

Mr. BLACKMORE: May I ask the minister one more question. Has the government gathered any information which would indicate the number of acres of potatoes that are planted in Canada? The parliamentary assistant to the minister issued a statement the other day in which he told us how many they planned to plant. I wonder if they know how many are reported to have been planted.

An hon. MEMBER: It is too early.

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): The information with regard to these matters is gathered for the Department of Agriculture, and the latest reports I have received are that the acreage going into potatoes this year is considerably higher than last year, and higher than we anticipated at the time the conference was held, in December. I am not able to give the exact figures; I can bring them down to-morrow or at a later date.

### BEER

#### EXPORT BY CANADIAN BREWERS FOR BRITISH TROOPS IN WAR THEATRES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I should like to direct a question to the [Mr. Blackmore.]

Minister of Trade and Commerce. It arises out of statements made by the Rev. Andrew Roddan, of First United church of Vancouver, that 800,000 cases of beer were being exported every month by the brewers of eastern Canada to North Africa, and that valuable shipping space was likewise being used for this purpose. My question is, first, what shipments of beer have been made each month, and whether any such shipments made are for the Canadian government, or for the British government; second, who provides the shipping space?

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The hon. member informed me that he was going to ask this question to-day and I am prepared to give an answer. I just briefly repeat the main points of the statement I made several months ago dealing with this matter.

First, what beer is purchased is bought by the United Kingdom government through the British Navy, Army and Air Force Institute. Second, the beer has been shipped to war theatres on vessels wholly under the control of the United Kingdom government. Third, the Canadian government has nothing whatsoever to do with this transaction, in regard either to purchasing or to shipping, except that, on the request of the United Kingdom government to ship beer to desert battle fronts and elsewhere, my department, through the export control permit branch, automatically grants export permits.

### WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

#### PROVISION FOR GRANTING TO HIS MAJESTY AID FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The house resumed from Monday, May 31, consideration in committee of a resolution to grant to his majesty certain sums of money for the carrying out of measures consequent upon the existence of a state of war—Mr. Ilesley—Mr. Bradette in the chair.

B—Sundry services.

Dependents supplementary grants fund, \$1,285,000.

Mr. GREEN: Has the minister the answers to the questions I asked him?

Mr. RALSTON: As soon as this item is disposed of I shall put on the record what answers there are.

Mr. GILLIS: When the committee rose last night I was making some inquiries with respect to the dependents' board of trustees. I should be glad if the minister would indicate just what the machinery of the board consists of. What is the administrative body that functions in Ottawa? How many of the com-