

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, March 18, 1957

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received a message from His Excellency the Governor General, signed by his own hand, reading as follows:

Government House, Ottawa
March 14, 1957

Members of the House of Commons:

I have received with great pleasure the address that you have voted in reply to my speech at the opening of parliament. I thank you sincerely for this address.

Vincent Massey

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING—CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. H. P. Cavers (Lincoln) presented the first report of the sessional committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS—CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. J. H. Harrison (Meadow Lake) moved that the first report of the standing committee on standing orders, presented on March 12, 1957, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

TRADE

POLAND—STATEMENT ON SALE OF WHEAT AND PROVISION OF CREDIT

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the house that negotiations with Poland for the purchase of Canadian wheat have just been concluded.

Hon. members will recall that, in the early months of 1956, Poland purchased from Canada 340,000 tons of wheat. The terms of payment were 15 per cent cash at time of shipment of each cargo and 85 per cent at the end of one year. Repayment of the 85 per cent balances was insured by the Export Credits Insurance Corporation.

Poland has met all her payments as they have fallen due up to the present time. As

a result, out of approximately \$21 million owing between \$9 million and \$10 million have been repaid to the exporters of Canadian wheat.

A few weeks ago the Polish government asked for an extension of time for repayment of balances still owing. The Canadian government replied that it was sympathetic to such a request providing Poland demonstrated that it is a continuing customer for Canada's wheat by offering to buy substantial quantities during the present crop year and the next crop year.

Both governments have now approved the following arrangements: One, the Export Credits Insurance Corporation's outstanding policies of insurance relating to purchases during the 1955-56 crop year will be extended, on the understanding that payment of each outstanding draft is made as follows: 25 per cent on present scheduled due date; 25 per cent six months from present scheduled due date; 25 per cent 12 months from present scheduled due date; 25 per cent 18 months from present scheduled due date. Two, the Polish government will purchase additional quantities of wheat on the following basis: Quantity: 150,000 tons of wheat for shipment during the 1956-57 crop year; 150,000 tons of wheat for shipment during the 1957-58 crop year. Terms of payment: 10 per cent of the gross invoice value of each cargo at time of shipment and the balance of 90 per cent as follows: One-third payable two years from date of shipment; one-third payable 2½ years from date of shipment; one-third payable three years from date of shipment. Three, the Export Credits Insurance Corporation will insure repayment of 90 per cent of the gross invoice value of each cargo.

IMMIGRATION

HUNGARIAN REFUGEES—STATEMENT ON REPORTED CARE BY CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a fairly extended statement about a question asked by the hon. member for Quebec West on March 13, and corrected by him in *Hansard* on March 14. I presume this is the proper time to do it.

I am informed that "Le Conseil Central des Oeuvres de Québec" has allotted \$2,000 to Le Bien-Être des Immigrants de Québec, a society composed of representatives of