

ALBERTA DEBT ADJUSTMENT LEGISLATION

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn):

In view of the recent decision handed down by the courts declaring the debt adjustment legislation of Alberta to be ultra vires, and in view of the consequent effect upon the debt adjustment legislation of the other prairie provinces, will the government take steps to protect the farm debtors who are now faced with possible foreclosure and eviction?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Requests from the governments of the three prairie provinces for further legislation by the dominion parliament dealing with debt adjustments, had been under consideration by the government for some time past, but no decision was arrived at pending the disposal of the Alberta case before the privy council.

The judgment of the privy council was announced in the newspapers on the 1st instant but the Department of Justice received only on the 2nd of February a brief cablegram from its agents in London about it, which was as follows:

"Alberta debts reference appeal dismissed on ground act relates to insolvency stop Further ground act seriously interferes with existing bankruptcy act stop Board recognize debts may be statute barred because act has been applied but hardship only removable by province.

Russell"

The law officers of the department wish to see the text of the opinion before preparing recommendation to council on the subject. I cannot, of course, anticipate the decision as to policy which the government may then have to make.

JAPANESE NATIONALS IN ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. NEILL:

1. Were any of the Japanese removed from the defence areas in the province of British Columbia located in the province of Alberta or Saskatchewan?

2. If so, what numbers in each province?

3. In the case of either or both of these provinces was an agreement entered into by the security commission providing for the removal of the Japanese when requested by the government of either province?

Mr. MITCHELL:

1 and 2. To Alberta, 2,588; to Saskatchewan, nil.

3. An agreement for the placement of Japanese was entered into with the province of Alberta which includes provision for the removal from the province of Japanese temporarily placed therein upon the termination of the state of war with Japan upon request by the province.

[Mr. Ilsley.]

EMPLOYMENT IN THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY

Mr. QUELCH:

How many persons were employed in Canada by the gold mining industry in each year from 1935 to 1943?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West):

Employees in the Gold Mining Industry, 1935-1942

	Number of employees
1935—Monthly average.....	19,834
1936—Monthly average.....	25,097
1937—Monthly average.....	29,140
1938—Monthly average.....	29,647
1939—Monthly average.....	30,622
1940—Monthly average.....	31,405
1941—January	32,503
February	32,496
March	32,514
April	32,364
May	32,600
June	32,538
July	33,041
August	32,889
September	33,336
October	33,601
November	32,298
December	30,297
Average.....	32,551
1942—January	27,140
February	27,618
March	27,737
April	27,277
May	27,111
June	26,673
July	25,939
August	24,204
September	23,000
October	21,894
November	21,271

DAY NURSERIES

Mr. COLDWELL:

1. Who in the Department of Labour is in charge of arrangements for day nurseries?

2. How many day nurseries have been established in each of the past three years?

3. In what locations?

4. What is the average number of mothers who have made use of the facilities of day nurseries during each month of the 12-month period ending January 31, 1943?

5. What is the average number of children who have been cared for during each month in the 12-month period ending January 31, 1943?

6. What is the total capacity of the day nurseries?