

Inquiries of the Ministry

Queen adopted by the Quebec Legislative Assembly with regard to limiting the powers of the Legislative Council is unconstitutional?

[*English*]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I made no such statement.

[*Later:*]

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister in connection with the question I have already asked him.

Did he receive an official protest from the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec in connection with the petition forwarded by the Quebec Legislature to the federal government to amend the powers of the Legislative Council?

[*English*]

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I have received no such communication.

TRADE

WHEAT—ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE TO POLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether reports that the Canadian Wheat Board has completed another sale to Poland are true. I would also ask him whether any flour was included in this latest sale, if one has been made.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the Canadian Wheat Board has in the last few days sold another 300,000 metric tons of wheat for shipment to Poland. The sales totalling 11 million bushels will be moved through east and west coast ports. I regret to say that there is no flour involved in the contract.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I intended to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce following his reply to the hon. Member for Medicine Hat, but the public address system failed at the time and I did not quite hear the Minister's answer. Did I understand the Minister to say that in respect of the new sale of wheat to Poland, shipments would be made through eastern and

[Mr. Pigeon.]

western ports? If that is accurate, can the Minister say whether any of these shipments will be made through the Port of Churchill?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, but I understand that the program for the shipment of wheat through Churchill will be at a very high level this year.

Mr. Simpson: I have a supplementary question. At this stage last year the report was made that there would be a record shipment season at Churchill and, as the Minister knows, the shipments last season dropped by some 1,500,000 bushels. In view of the fact that the Canadian Wheat Board report shows once again that substantial savings were made as a result of shipments of grain through Churchill, can the Minister indicate whether this has been pointed out to the purchasers from Poland?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the great virtues of the Port of Churchill, which have been expounded by my hon. friend, are well known throughout the world, and particularly to the Wheat Board which does everything possible to encourage buyers to take wheat from that port. This year it is fully expected there will be a high level of shipment through that port, and it is hoped it will be a record year.

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENTS UNDER NEW DAIRY POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture. I would ask the minister whether he is in a position to tell the House when the farmers will be receiving their first cheques under the new dairy policy recently announced. Will it be in July?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, considerable work is required to collect the necessary information; some 200,000 farmers across Canada are involved. However, we are hoping that the initial payments can go out as early as July.

PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF HORSES FOR SLAUGHTERING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. A. Webb (Hastings-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Because of representations made by the Humane Society