

FUEL

PRICE PER CORD OF BUSHWOOD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I have information from Vancouver that wood that was selling at \$9 per cord has been raised to \$13 per cord. The increase in price, it was said, was on instructions from the wartime prices and trade board. Can the minister inform the house whether such instructions for raising the price were given, and if so, why?

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I made some inquiry about this matter. The price was not raised on instructions from the wartime prices and trade board, but it would probably be true to say that the price was raised with the authorization of the board. One has to understand the situation there to appreciate it. This particular kind of wood, bushwood fuel, it is called, was sold in very small quantities until recently because most of the wood fuel required came from sawdust or mill wood, by-products of the lumber industry. When this latter fuel became very scarce the other form of fuel became more important, and as there were few suppliers, and they supplied only very small quantities, individual price ceilings meant very little. A maximum price for the kind of wood referred to by the hon. member was accordingly set for the whole zone or area. That maximum price was fixed at \$13 a cord, the price that was deemed to be necessary to assure a supply.

Mr. MacINNIS: Is it illegal to sell this fuel in Vancouver below \$13 a cord?

Mr. ILSLEY: No.

PRICE SITUATION AT NEW BRUNSWICK BORDER POINTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. B. HANSON (York-Sunbury): May I call the minister's attention to the situation obtaining on the border in New Brunswick? The price ceiling on hardwood fuel in New Brunswick is \$12 a cord. In the United States, immediately across the line, the price is \$15 a cord. Canadian producers are and have been for some time carrying fuel wood from New Brunswick across the border into towns such as Houlton and Calais, Maine, where they receive \$15 a cord plus the exchange. It is feared that if this situation continues into another year, no fuel wood will be available at border

points in New Brunswick. What does the wartime prices and trade board intend to do about it?

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I will bring the facts to the attention of the board.

POWER ALCOHOL

ROSTON MEMORANDUM ON UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I am informed that a man named Roston, who was owner of one of the largest power alcohol plants in eastern Europe, named Kutno Limited, situated in Poland, has made a report to the minister on the utilization of agricultural products in Canada. In view of the prevailing interest in the production of power alcohol from farm products in Canada, will the minister make this report available to members of the house, either by tabling it or by providing each member with a copy?

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roston has made representations to me personally with regard to the possibilities in connection with the production of alcohol, but he has made no report to me as Minister of Agriculture. I have had forwarded to me by a gentleman named Monahan on two different occasions a memorandum prepared by Mr. Roston on the production of alcohol, but it is in no sense a government document or even an exposition of government policy or departmental views with regard to the production of alcohol. I do not think it would be proper for me as a member of the government to distribute memoranda prepared by Mr. Roston or any one else who might be promoting some particular production.

OIL

BONUS ON IMPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL FROM MONTANA INTO ALBERTA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. B. HANSON (York-Sunbury): In the absence of the Minister of Munitions and Supply I should like to put a question which may be looked upon as a notice, because probably no one else can answer it now. I received to-day a communication from western Canada to the effect that some governmental authority, presumably the oil controller or what-not, is paying a bonus on the importation of crude oil from Montana into