

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

final payment of the 1963-64 wheat crop. I have been in communication with the Canadian wheat board and the 1963-64 wheat pool account has been closed. The final accounting is now under way. It is expected the board will announce the amount of the final payment and will be making the payment itself early in March. All I can say at the present time is that it will be a very substantial payment.

**Mr. Joseph Slogan (Springfield):** I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Since he quoted the secretary of agriculture in the United States, I was wondering if the Canadian government was contemplating any action to ensure that the Canadian producer does not bear the full brunt of the lower wheat prices? The producer in the United States gets his full price regardless of the price the government sells his wheat in the world market.

**Mr. Sharp:** I do not believe it is appropriate for me to make an announcement of this kind on orders of the day. I would be very glad to discuss it at an appropriate time.

[Later:]

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce supplementary to the one which he answered a few minutes ago. During the course of his reply he said that the final payment for the 1963-64 wheat crop would be substantial. As the books on that account have been closed for some time I wonder could he tell the house whether the final payment will be equal to or greater than the payment made in the previous year, even though he may not have the exact figures?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I asked the wheat board that precise question and they say the accounting is not sufficiently advanced to give me a figure.

[Later:]

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the minister or the government received any representations from other grain exporting countries regarding the recent price cuts authorized by the Canadian wheat board at the request of the minister?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentle-

man has been in this house for a long time and I am sure he is one of the great experts in respect of the Canadian Wheat Board Act. He must know that the minister of trade and commerce has no authority to direct the Canadian wheat board as to the prices it charges.

**Mr. Nasserden:** Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister whether he had received any representations from other countries. He did not answer that question.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the question contained an imputation which is not correct and therefore I do not feel the question has been put to me accurately.

## AGRICULTURE

EGGS—REQUEST FOR PRICE INVESTIGATION  
BY ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale):** I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture which relates to the price fluctuation for eggs. The situation is so serious in Canada that I shall request the minister to immediately set up a royal commission to investigate the deplorable situation of egg pricing in Canada, as well as the importation of eggs from countries where egg prices are subsidized.

**Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture):** I wonder if the hon. member would ask a question? He made a statement, and if he would ask me a question I would be glad to answer it.

**Mr. Rapp:** The minister should know the situation. This matter concerns his department. The farmers in the west are receiving such low prices for eggs that they are feeding them to the pigs because it does not pay to sell them. Will the minister set up a royal commission to investigate the pricing of eggs in Canada?

**Mr. Hays:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should just take a moment to give the hon. member the egg picture. During the last year the marketing of eggs has been running generally at about 150,000 cases per week. This may be compared with marketings of 142,000 cases during the same time the previous year. Major increases in production have occurred in the provinces of Quebec and Manitoba, and during 1964 production in Quebec was 30.6 per cent above that of 1963, while Manitoba was 25.6 per cent above 1963. During 1964 increases were registered also by British