

Questions

2. The amount to be spent in that Province during the fiscal year 1969-70 has not been estimated yet.

SATURDAY POSTAGE STAMP PURCHASES

Question No. 1,587—**Mr. Macquarrie:**

1. During what hours on Saturday may stamps be purchased at the wickets of Post Offices?

2. Are Canadian quarters (twenty-five cent pieces) of the type minted since August 1968 useable in the stamp vending machines of the Canadian Post Office Department?

3. If not, is it the intention to convert the existing machines or order new ones in which such coins may usefully be inserted?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):

In so far as the Post Office Department is concerned: 1. At Staff Post Offices with Letter Carrier Service, postage stamps may not be purchased at the wickets on Saturdays, but stamp vending machines are available.

At Staff Post Offices without Letter Carrier Delivery, postage stamps may be purchased during a 4 hour period on Saturdays. Hours of service are determined by the time of receipt of mail.

At Semi-Staff Post Offices, postage stamps may be purchased during a 4 hour period on Saturdays. Hours of service are determined by the time of receipt of mail.

At Revenue Post Offices there has been no change in service. Stamps may be purchased during hours office is open on Saturdays.

At Sub Post Offices, postage stamps may be purchased on Saturdays during the hours observed by such establishments.

2. Yes; these coins are being accepted in approximately one half of the post office stamp vending machines in service.

3. Yes; conversion of the remainder is presently in progress.

*WHEAT EXPORTS

Question No. 1,597—**Mr. Woolliams:**

1. What were the total wheat exports for the following periods; October 1967-October 1968, November 1967-November 1968, December 1967-December 1968 and January 1968-January 1969?

2. What was the total of demurrage charges paid and/or to be paid by the Canadian Wheat Board on behalf of the producers of Canada to ship-owners and others for the months of October, November and December 1968 and January 1969 in reference to those ships that were held in

[Mr. MacEachen.]

the Port of Vancouver waiting to be loaded with grain for export?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council): 1. Wheat exports in millions of bushels by month in the October 1968 to January 1969 period with exports in the same month of the previous year in brackets were as follows: October 26.0 (19.9), November 23.3 (22.0), December 16.1 (12.9), January 18.8 (19.3).

2. It is not the policy of the Canadian Wheat Board to divulge information in respect to its current operations but the information will be made available through the board's annual report when crop accounts have been finalized. In any event only a few claims have already been submitted and it will be a matter of months before all claims are submitted and settlements finalized.

UNCLAIMED POST OFFICE SAVINGS

Question No. 1,611—**Mr. Mather:**

1. What is the approximate amount in dollars of unclaimed Post Office Savings as of January 31, 1969?

2. What will be the disposition of these unclaimed savings?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):

In so far as the Post Office Department is concerned: 1. \$9,760,000.

2. After 31st December 1969, any account with a balance of less than \$25, which has been inactive for thirty years or more, will be credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and the depositor will have no further claim in respect of such deposit. Any account with a balance of \$25 or more may be claimed by a depositor or his legal representative at any time, except that interest will not be earned after 31st December 1969.

PLUGGING OF OFFSHORE OIL WELLS

Question No. 1,616—**Mr. Anderson:**

1. What regulations govern the plugging of offshore oil wells drilled by Shell of Canada's SEDCO 135F drilling rig and other rigs off the West Coast of Vancouver Island?

2. How many wells have been plugged in Canadian waters by this company's rig and other rigs since drilling operations began?

3. Do all earlier plugs meet present federal standards?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): 1. The plugging