

Inquiries of the Ministry

CATTLE

COMPENSATION FOR TUBERCULOSIS REACTORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. O. White (Middlesex East): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture when the promise of compensation to farmers for the loss of cattle in tuberculosis tests will be implemented, and whether the compensation will be retroactive?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Legislation was prepared, and I think it was announced at the last session that it would be brought down. The nature of the legislation was indicated. I presume that the same legislation will be brought down this session. Payments cannot be made until it is passed.

other government agency take steps to ensure the availability of a sufficient and continuous supply of flaxseed for crushing purposes at the Saskatoon vegetable oil mill and other similar industrial plants in Saskatchewan during the coming year?

Mr. Cruickshank: Are you going to make oleomargarine?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I can only say to the hon. member that I will bring his question to the attention of the proper officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce, and as soon as an answer can be obtained from them it will be made available.

OLEOMARGARINE

QUESTION AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF PLANT IN FRASER VALLEY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it true that at the present time a plant is being built in the Fraser valley for the manufacture of oleomargarine?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): I take it from the remarks made last night by the member for that constituency that one is being built. We have no control over that.

BUTTER

DISPOSITION OF STOCKS HELD IN STORAGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. Earl Catherwood (Haldimand): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that at the present time the government is holding stocks amounting to 48 million pounds of butter, which seems to be a very large quantity, what action is contemplated as to the marketing or disposition of those stocks?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): In view of the ruling which you gave a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, it would be impossible for me to answer that question and be in order, because the answer is a page long. The question is not urgent, because a press release on August 11, 1949, made an announcement of government policy, and it is known to the public right across Canada. If the hon. member wishes to put such a question on the order paper, so that the answer may be published in *Hansard*, we can see that that is done.

Mr. Hatfield: The same as you did with potatoes.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Monday, September 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Maurice Boisvert for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

(Translation):

Mr. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted at the outset to congratulate you most sincerely on your elevation to the speakership of this house, a high post which you occupy with so much tact and efficiency. You can rest assured that we opposition members are delighted that the conduct of the all-important debates of this parliamentary forum are in the hands of such an eminent jurist.

Speaking for myself and on behalf of all Conservatives in the province of Quebec, I am also pleased to pay a tribute to the leader of the government. I do it all the more sincerely as I have been a pupil of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) at Laval university; needless to say he taught me law and not politics.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to represent in this august assembly the constituency of Three Rivers, which has a population of 50,000. It comprises the progressive and industrial city of the same name, as well as seven fine rural parishes.

Three Rivers, the second oldest city in Canada, enjoys the rare distinction of being also the most French of all American cities. Indeed, in my native town, the proportion of French Canadians is 96 per cent.

Located on the great St. Lawrence river, halfway between Quebec and Montreal, Three Rivers is the centre of the beautiful province of Quebec, the very heart of that race of pioneers who, together with the gallant sons