

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

quantity of seed now in existence is about 4,000 bushels. It will be evident from this that a general distribution of that kind could not be made. This will be used for increase on experimental farms and under contract with registered seed growers. It is expected that general distribution will be made in time for seeding in 1957. After this year's production is known, details as to prices and procedure for obtaining supplies will be announced. "Parkland" barley is suitable for use in the three prairie provinces and is particularly well adapted to the black soil zones.

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF FINAL PAYMENT ON 1954 CROP

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister yet in a position to say when the final payment will be made on the 1954 wheat crop and if it can be made in time to help the farmers finance their seeding operations?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** No, Mr. Speaker, I am not ready at the moment.

**Mr. Argue:** I wonder whether the minister can say when he anticipates he will be able to make an announcement?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I do not know the date but I will promise to inform the house as soon as a decision has been reached.

WHEAT—REPORTED INCREASE IN PRICES FOR LOW GRADES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. E. G. McCullough (Moose Mountain):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can the minister state whether or not any consideration has been given by the Canadian wheat board to increasing the price of low-grade wheat since it has been announced that demand has exceeded available supply?

**An hon. Member:** Demand?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Prices have been increased recently, Mr. Speaker.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO PRECAUTIONS RESPECTING RUSSIAN POLAR EXPEDITIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence or, in his absence, to his parliamentary assistant. In view of the reports of Russian

scientific activities among the Arctic islands, are any precautions being taken or can the minister or his parliamentary assistant tell us whether or not these Russian polar expeditions are entering Canadian waters among the Arctic islands?

**Mr. P. T. Hellyer (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I should be expected to answer that question.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Do I take it from the answer of the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence that he will take my question as notice or that there will be no answer?

**Mr. Hellyer:** I do not think I should be expected to answer the question.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, we are entitled to know from the parliamentary assistant, despite the lack of training he appears to be receiving, whether he intends to bring the question to the attention of the minister—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Fulton:**—so that the minister may decide and look into the matter and be in a position to give an answer to the house.

**Mr. Hellyer:** I will be pleased to bring it to the attention of the minister. I believe the white paper will be brought down in due course which will outline defence policy, and when the department's estimates are before the house members can go into these matters just as thoroughly as security precautions will permit.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Possibly I might redirect the same question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am wholeheartedly in accord with the answer just given by the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence.

MINTO ARMOURIES, WINNIPEG—INQUIRY AS TO RECONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence. Is he prepared to answer the question of which I gave notice to the minister the other day asking the minister if he would give a statement to the house concerning the fire which occurred at Minto armouries in Winnipeg during the month of January, at which time he said he did not have a report ready? Second, have plans been