

No shortage of bait in this district has recently been reported to the department. The department is informed that if bait were required, the seiners would gladly sell it on request, as they have done in past years.

### PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE

#### TOWNSHIPS DECLARED INELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENTS —QUESTION OF REINSPECTION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture, having to do with the fact that some 600 townships in the prairie provinces have been declared ineligible for payment of the prairie farm assistance allowance. Has the minister given consideration to the reinspection of these areas, or to any alteration in the area of qualification? This is a matter of great interest to large areas, particularly in Saskatchewan.

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** As the hon. member knows, there is a board to which all these applications are referred. Whenever a question arises whether a decision by the board is correct or otherwise, reinspection is made, and I presume that where any such question has arisen, that has been done. If, however, there are any districts in which reinspections have not been made, and about which there is question, the board will reconsider them.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** If the minister would make a general statement in regard to the whole situation, it would be beneficial, because, as he knows, all of us on the prairies are in receipt of letters from many farmers who believe they are entitled to payment.

### TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

#### INQUIRY AS TO CHOICE OF ROUTES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. P. C. Black (Cumberland):** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Mines and Resources about his reply to my inquiry as to the route of the trans-Canada highway. A certain route had been recommended in the early thirties by the federal government and by the different provinces. That is the information for which I have been asking, rather than the results of the request recently made to the provinces as to the route of the highway. What routes were recommended by the different provinces from 1930 on; what routes were approved by the federal government—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** —and what expenditures have been made?

#### The Address—Mr. Stephenson

**Mr. Speaker:** May I suggest that as the hon. member's question is a lengthy one, it should have been placed on the order paper.

**Mr. Black (Cumberland):** I think it should be answered. May I have an answer from the minister?

**Hon. J. A. MacKinnon (Minister of Mines and Resources):** I shall be glad to look into the matter and see whether there is any such information in the files of the department. If there is, I shall produce it.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 1, consideration of the motion of Mr. D. F. Brown for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Drew, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

**Mr. C. E. Stephenson (Durham):** Mr. Speaker, in availing myself of this opportunity to speak I intend to bring to the attention of the government some of the serious problems that face agriculture across Canada, and in particular I should like to refer to those who are engaged in this basic industry in the county I have the honour to represent. Before proceeding I should like to join with others in congratulating the mover (Mr. Brown) and the seconder (Mr. Demers) of the address and to say to them that they did a very fine job.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. There is far too much disturbance in the chamber.

**Mr. Stephenson:** When I spoke last year in the debate I found myself in the same position as I am in today. At that time I asked if it might not be possible to arrange for an interval after the orders of the day have been dealt with during which time hon. members who wished to leave the chamber might withdraw. Then it would not be necessary for the speaker who had the floor to compete with all the confusion that arises.

As I was saying, I should like to join with others in congratulating the mover and seconder of the address. I think they did exceptionally fine jobs with the meagre material they had at their disposal. I should like also to congratulate the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) upon attaining the high position he now holds. It might be timely to remind the youth of Canada that under our democratic system they have the opportunity of attaining to that same high position. It might also be timely to warn Canadian parents who have the interests of their children at heart, and who wish them to