

barley acreage should be kept up. That is one of the reasons I have been suggesting that wheat acreage should not be increased. I am sure that if all hon. members who represent constituencies in that part of Canada will take the same attitude there will not be any danger of barley acreage being decreased this year.

VETERANS LAND ACT

PRIORITIES AND DISCOUNTS FOR FARM MACHINERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): I wish to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) a question, notice of which I have already sent him. In view of the urgency of increasing agricultural production and the necessity of the early and satisfactory reestablishment of veterans on farms, would the minister give immediate consideration to allowing veterans not coming under the Veterans Land Act, but who wish to become bona fide farmers, the same priorities and discounts for farm machinery as those who now come under the Veterans Land Act?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I must remind the hon. member that the rule forbids the making of any statement. His question should be brief and to the point.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): It is of urgent importance.

ALASKA HIGHWAY

QUESTION AS TO OPENING FOR PUBLIC USE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Cariboo): On Friday I asked the Minister of National Defence a question; I wonder if he can answer it today.

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of National Defence): I have just forgotten what the question was; I was not in my seat at the time.

Mr. IRVINE: It was whether the Alaska highway would be opened in the near future to public use.

Mr. ABBOTT: There is no probability that the Alaska highway will be open to the general public in the near future. As my hon. friend knows, it is to be taken over from the United States army by the Canadian army on or about April 1. There are no facilities for servicing civilian motor cars and supplying them with gasoline, and so on; consequently it will not be possible for the Canadian army to undertake the responsibility of permitting

ordinary civilian travel on the road in the immediate future. We shall have to look into it further after we have taken it over.

Mr. IRVINE: May I ask a supplementary question? Is there to be any official ceremony when the highway is taken over on April 1?

Mr. ABBOTT: Yes, there will be an appropriate ceremony. The date is not yet fixed, but it will be some time early in April. I am now discussing the matter with the chairman of the permanent joint defence board. Of necessity the ceremony will have to be on a modest scale because of the lack of suitable accommodation for civilians in the area.

MAPLE PRODUCTS

RATIONING AND PRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. FRASER (Peterborough West): I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. Is there any chance of the government easing the rationing of maple syrup and maple products in order that production may be increased?

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I shall have to take the question as a notice. No notice of it was given and therefore I am unable to answer it now.

SUGAR

ALLOWANCE TO BEE-KEEPERS FOR HONEY PRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. MAYHEW (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): On Friday last the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) asked whether the Minister of Finance would not consider advising the sugar administrator to increase immediately the allowance of sugar to Canadian beekeepers sufficiently to stimulate honey production in 1946.

The answer is: The wartime prices and trade board is fully aware of the necessity of encouraging the production of honey in 1946. The following instructions have been issued by the sugar administrator:

For feeding in the winter of 1945-46 a maximum allowance of fifteen pounds per colony was permitted. For spring feeding an allowance of five pounds per package may be granted where necessary, but only to the extent of packages imported to replace colonies destroyed. In the case of veterans wishing to import packages to reestablish a comparable apiary given up on enlistment, sufficient sugar may be granted to carry bees