

shipping. It is possible there may be a committee on canteen funds. I do not think it will be necessary this year to have a special committee on land settlement, or one on vocational training, nor will there be the necessity of a special committee on the plebiscite. My hon. friend will recollect that that subject took up a large amount of time last year, and it accounted in very large part for the delay in constituting some of the other committees.

While I am speaking on the question of committees, I may say that the government has had under consideration the appointment of a committee on estimates, but before making any final decision in the matter I should like to have a word with the leader of the opposition and the other leaders in conference together.

There is one other committee to which reference has been made: a committee to revise the rules of the house. We have, as I stated on a former occasion, thought that a time of war was not the best time to revise the rules of the house. The rules of the house are designed to apply in ordinary times; in a time of war they have to be modified considerably. We hope the war is not going to continue for so many years that the house will be embarrassed in any way by having its rules remain as they are for the present, modified by agreement to such extent as has been the case in previous sessions. However, I do not wish to say a final word on that just now. But it is the present view of the administration that this is not the best time to have a committee consider the rules of the house.

NATIONAL WAR LABOUR BOARD

QUESTION AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): May I direct a further question to the Prime Minister? In the press of January 25 of this year there appeared a report with regard to the settlement reached in the steel strike, and one of the points mentioned was the appointment of a new chairman of the national war labour board. I was wondering if the Prime Minister would acquaint the house with the progress that has been made in that regard.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I may say to my hon. friend that the government is in communication with a gentleman who I hope will find it possible to accept the position. I hope to be able to make an announcement of his name to the house on Monday.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

FUEL

SHORTAGE IN WESTERN CANADA—DELIVERIES IN SASKATCHEWAN AND ONTARIO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. DIEFENBAKER (Lake Centre): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister in regard to the serious fuel shortage, particularly in the prairie provinces. What steps are being taken by the government to relieve that situation and to ensure that adequate deliveries, or at least some deliveries, are made to cities and towns in Saskatchewan that are almost out of fuel?

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Ontario also.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Perhaps my hon. friend will be agreeable to having his question stand as a notice. A committee was appointed by the cabinet some little time ago to deal with the problem just referred to. Steps have already been taken to meet the situation, but I should prefer not to make a statement off-hand as to what those steps are.

GRAIN POLICY

STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO CROP YEAR BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 1943

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I desire to make a statement with respect to the government grain policy for 1943-44—that is, with reference to the crop year commencing August 1, 1943.

This policy relates, in part, to the marketing problem and programme and, in part, to the production programme already announced by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner).

I shall deal first with the marketing aspects. Later, on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, I shall refer to phases of grain policy for the coming year that have to do especially with production.

My purpose in making a statement on this subject at this early date—so far in advance of the actual commencement of the next crop year—is to assist producers, as far as possible, to plan their 1943 crops. The government has arrived at its 1943-44 grain programme after very careful consideration on its own part; after full discussion with the Canadian wheat board; after having received the recommendations of the advisory committee to the Canadian wheat board; after a conference between federal agricultural officials and provincial agricultural officials and the Cana-