

of these trains. This is done by the railway companies themselves for the purposes of economy, and certainly they are endeavouring to give service to all who require it between these stations. I shall deal with my hon. friend's question when I deal with the question asked by the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe).

FARMERS' STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH (Vegreville): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens). Recently complaints have been received from Myrnam, Alberta, with regard to the refusal of the agents of five grain companies to buy any but tough grain. As a consequence the farmers in that vicinity have gone on strike, and at many other points in northern Alberta sympathetic strikes are in progress. I should like to ask the minister if the matter of the Myrnam farmers' strike has been brought to the attention of the Department of Trade and Commerce and, if so, what steps have been taken in connection with it, and also whether the board of grain commissioners has done anything to settle the grievances of the farmers in regard to the grading of grain.

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): If I had been given notice of the question I think perhaps I could have given a more satisfactory answer; I am speaking now only from memory and from a casual conversation I had yesterday with the chairman of the board of grain commissioners. He intimated to me that there had been some trouble in the area to which my hon. friend refers, and he also intimated that the difficulty had been adjusted. I have no further information on the subject, but I will take the question as a notice and deal with it tomorrow or as soon as the chairman of the board comes back to Ottawa. I expect him back to-night, but I am not quite certain.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. DUBOIS (Nicolet) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, on February 20, last, I drew the attention of the house to the fact that documents which I had requested in connection with the breaking up of the ice-bridge between St. Angèle de Laval and Three Rivers had not been tabled, it was, however, pointed out, in these documents, that the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) had received requests from the authorities of Three Rivers,

through their member, for the help of ice-breakers so as to facilitate the service between St. Angèle and Three Rivers. This document was not included in the returns, and I, therefore, requested the Minister of Marine to kindly have it tabled. The latter informed me that he had tabled all the documents which the department had furnished him.

I can make inquiries, said he, and if there exists further correspondence, I shall be pleased to either lay it on the table or communicate it to my hon. friend.

It is now March 6 and I have not yet received anything. These requests made by the authorities of Three Rivers through their member (Mr. Bourgeois) must have been either made orally or in writing. I do not see why the hon. minister could not reply to me orally, if the request was so made, or else table the document if it was made in writing.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, after an investigation, I wish to state to my hon. friend that there is no correspondence as indicated. It is quite possible that the hon. member for Three Rivers, at the time, made such requests orally. I cannot say positively.

BUREAU FOR TRANSLATIONS

The house resumed from Monday, March 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cahan for the second reading of Bill No. 4, respecting the bureau for translations and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Chevrier.

Mr. JOSEPH JEAN (Maisonneuve) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I stated, last evening, that the bill under discussion, has not the import which the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) and the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), seem to have given it. Far from being an additional guarantee of the rights of the French language, it is of a nature to restrict it by leaving to the bureau created by this bill the care of interpreting the guarantees given to our constitution. Besides, it takes away from the different departments the bilingual character which must be theirs under the present system.

If it is a fact, as has been said, that section 133 of the British North America Act limits the compulsory use of the French language to the printing of the house records and of the statutes, I fail to see how the proposed legislation shall fundamentally place the two languages on an equal footing. If the intention be really to create that equality of standing, as far as the two languages are concerned, in the various departments of the public ser-