

the additional data, which would entail the laying of a test pier in the strait. When I have that report I shall bring it to the attention of the government so that it can be dealt with quickly.

### POTATOES

#### REFUSAL OF PERMITS FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens):** I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has his department been asked by Washington to refuse the issue of further export permits for potatoes consigned to a certain United States potato importer?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** The answer to that question is yes. The request from Washington was received after the permit referred to by my hon. friend had been issued. Upon investigation it was then found that the boat had already been loaded and that financial commitments had been made both to the growers and to the transport companies. The matter was referred to Washington, and it was agreed that it was too late to stop this particular shipment. At Washington's request, no further permits for seed potatoes will be issued to the United States firm in question. This ban has been placed upon the particular importer until further notice.

### WHEAT

#### PARTICIPATION PAYMENTS FOR 1945-46 CROP YEAR AND SINCE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Fair (Battle River):** I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce when the wheat growers of the prairie provinces may expect a further supplementary payment on the wheat delivered during the 1945-46 crop year and since. I might say that it was intimated recently in the west by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) that this payment would be made.

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** The date and the amount of the payment are matters which have not been definitely determined. It is usual to make the payment some time before seeding begins.

**Mr. Ross (Souris):** Before June?

**Mr. Howe:** The probability is that the usual practice will be followed this year, although no decision has been reached as yet.

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## Inquiries of the Ministry

### CHINA

#### EVACUATION OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

—H.M.C.S. "CRESCENT"

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Nanaimo):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the statement made by him today that H.M.C.S. *Crescent* has proceeded to far eastern waters, can he indicate the number of Canadian citizens who may need to be evacuated?

**Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence):** I cannot give any number because there has been no indication from the Canadians there. The total number of Canadians in China is about eight hundred, but they are not all in the area concerned. A considerable number of those in the area affected have indicated their desire to stay. It is, therefore, not possible to give the number of those who might wish to be evacuated should the necessity arise.

**Mr. Pearkes:** If I may, I should like to ask a supplementary question. Can the minister say whether there is any reason why H.M.C.S. *Crescent* has proceeded or is proceeding to far eastern waters?

**Mr. Claxton:** The ship is going on a cruise to the far east, and if there should be a need of coming to the assistance of any Canadians, it will be available to give that assistance.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### INQUIRIES AS TO SETTING UP OF COMMITTEES

##### Veterans Affairs

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. J. Bentley (Swift Current):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Since I did not give him notice of it, I shall not expect an answer today if he does not feel like giving it. Has the minister given consideration to the setting up of a special committee on veterans affairs during this session?

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** I have not received notice of this question, but the answer to it is that the minister and the government have given consideration to the matter, and it has been decided not to recommend the setting up of a committee this session.

##### Income Tax—Farmers

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. The western agricultural