

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Fleming: Has any progress been made toward raising the prices at which gold may be sold to the United States or other world buyers?

Mr. Abbott: As my hon. friend is aware, that is a matter which really does not depend on the policy of the government.

Mr. Graydon: Could you not make it apply this year?

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 54, STATUTES OF 1947-1948—VOLUNTARY REVOCABLE CHECK-OFF OF UNION DUES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, to amend the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act (voluntary revocable check-off).

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

DIVORCE JURISDICTION

EXCHEQUER COURT TO HAVE JURISDICTION IN ACTIONS ORIGINATING IN QUEBEC AND NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3, to provide for the jurisdiction of the Exchequer Court of Canada in matters of divorce.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

PROVISION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, CREED OR COLOUR

Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 4, to promote fair employment practices in Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

WHEAT

QUOTAS FOR DELIVERIES—PROSPECTS FOR MARKETING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in connection with increasing the quotas for wheat deliveries in the prairie provinces. I should like to ask him, too, what the prospects are for the marketing of the wheat that was in storage,

not only in the line elevators but also the terminal elevators, so as to make room for wheat that is lying out in the fields.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) was kind enough to give me notice of his question.

Hon. members are aware of the very real storage and transportation problems which have been created by the size of this year's crops. The latest estimate by the dominion bureau of statistics indicates that 664 million bushels of wheat alone will be harvested in western Canada. The ten-year average 1940-50 western wheat crop was 350 million, so really we have almost two crops in one. It must be remembered, also, that perhaps 285 million bushels of grain were harvested this spring from last year's crop.

In spite of the scope of the problem, however, I am pleased to be able to advise the house that substantial progress is being made. The Canadian wheat board started out the crop year with a delivery quota for new crop wheat of 5 bushels per acre, and announced that this quota would be increased as circumstances permitted. Today there are only 264 delivery points still on the 5 bushel quota; 913 points are on an 8 bushel quota; 377 on a 10 bushel quota; 178 on a 12 bushel quota; and 349 on a 15 bushel quota.

As is customary at this time of the year, the Canadian wheat board has been concentrating on a short-haul program to move the greatest possible quantity of grain to the lakehead before the close of navigation. This has tended to favour Manitoba and certain Saskatchewan points. After December 1, however, the board and the railways will be able to concentrate on the points which have the lowest delivery quotas and a policy of "equalization" will be followed. In view of the comparatively small number of points still on a five-bushel quota, it will not take a great number of cars to relieve the situation at those points and I am confident that the month of December will see a still further reduction, and I think a substantial one, in the number of points still on the lowest quota.

Producers' marketings to date of all grains total 310 million bushels as compared with 265 million last year. The board advises me that there are good prospects that a total of 400 million will be achieved by the end of December. That will represent, I think, very substantial progress even considering the quantities still to come.

Shipments from country points to date total 245 million bushels as compared with 210 million for the period last year, and a