

Journal of Monday, November 25, in which he said in part "Patronage, what is that? I select people according to merit." If it is government policy that personnel are selected on merit why was it, in view of this statement by the minister, that Mr. George Walker, the former P.F.A.A. supervisor for Swift Current, was discharged from the government service? Either this statement is false or the minister does not practise what he preaches.

Mr. George Walker was discharged on the recommendation of the director because he did not perform his duties satisfactorily. The director was appointed by the previous administration and is a good man.

[Later:]

Mr. McIntosh: I have another question for the Minister of Agriculture arising out of the answer he gave to my earlier question. I understand that in his files he will find a report made by the present director in regard to the supervisor to whom I just referred, to the effect that he was the most capable supervisor in that branch.

Mr. Speaker: Order. What is your question?

Mr. McIntosh: If he does find this report, will he consider firing the director and reinstating the supervisor?

Mr. Hays: I should like to answer the hon. member's question. Apparently he does not understand that the problem arose out of the fact Mr. Walker was taking orders from the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek instead of the director. This was one of the problems, and was not satisfactorily fulfilling his job.

Mr. McIntosh: May I ask the minister if he would repeat his answer. I did not hear what he said.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is becoming a debating period instead of a question period.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Surely, Mr. Speaker, that is a question of privilege. If a member has just been accused of giving orders to a civil servant, surely he has the right to get up and make a reply.

Mr. McIntosh: I did not hear the exact words the minister used. I should like him to repeat them, and then I was going to raise a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the important business still before the house may I suggest to the hon. member that he read what was said, and if he has a question of privilege he can raise it tomorrow.

Mr. McIntosh: If I have your permission to raise it tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, I shall do so.

Inquiries of the Ministry

FEDERAL AGENCY TO PROVIDE FEED GRAIN FOR EASTERN FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture which concerns a matter of great urgency to the Atlantic provinces. Is it the intention of the government, early in the new session, to bring forward legislation setting up a federal feed grain agency to deal with western feed grains for eastern farmers?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): This matter is under discussion at the moment and there is nothing I can say about it. I cannot comment further.

REQUEST FOR STORAGE SPACE IN MONTREAL FOR ONTARIO CORN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. McBain (Elgin): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, of which I have given him notice. Could the minister supply any additional information further to his reply to my question on November 5 concerning the storage of Ontario corn in Montreal national harbours board elevators? Is discrimination being practised against Ontario corn by Montreal elevator operators, who only allow the unloading of five to ten cars per week or a total of 10,000 to 20,000 bushels, while at the same time United States boats arriving at Montreal with 400,000 to 500,000 bushels of corn are unloaded almost immediately? The information I have received is that at the present time there are about 100,000 bushels of Ontario corn in Montreal elevators for the winter months, while at the close of navigation in mid December there will be over two million bushels of United States corn in storage.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): I want to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question, and to assure him that no discrimination is being practised against Ontario corn by the national harbours board elevators at Montreal. More than ten railway cars or 20,000 bushels per week of Ontario corn were unloaded in Montreal elevators in the following weeks:

Week ending November 2	26,086 bushels
Week ending November 9	101,311 bushels
Week ending November 16	61,300 bushels
Week ending November 23	69,618 bushels
Week ending November 27	74,696 bushels

All vessels containing United States corn had to wait before being unloaded in Montreal, as follows: one ship, three days; one ship, nine days; one ship, eight days. As of 8 a.m. today, November 28, the quantity of