

Inquiries of the Ministry

shortage of operating capital felt by all Saskatchewan grain farmers, and since there were over 300 delivery points in Saskatchewan still on a one-bushel quota as of April 27, why were 112 points in the province granted a three-bushel quota before equalization was realized at the low delivery points?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Specifically, because of the cash shortage in certain areas quotas are opened up as room becomes available. The block system is effectively working toward equalization of delivery opportunities but of course it is at times necessary to place the requirement of moving specified grain to market ahead of the equalization of quota opportunities.

Mr. McIntosh: In view of the fact that the block system is not a cure-all, will the minister inform the House whether any of the 300 points I have mentioned are non-competitive points?

Mr. Lang: I would have to check into that situation. But I have no doubt that some of them are single elevator points, if that is what the hon. member means.

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO PURCHASES
BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): My supplementary question has to do with marketing and sales. Can the minister comment on whether or not India and other countries whose representatives have been in Winnipeg negotiating contracts for the purchase of wheat have concluded any major purchases?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): The hon. member may be aware that it is not the custom to comment on negotiations prior to their completion.

Mr. Horner: Has a sale been made to any of these countries? Can the minister not give some encouragement to this industry? Has a sale been made or does he hope to make a sale tomorrow, or the next day?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me the hon. member is repeating the question he asked in the first instance.

Mr. Horner: I got no answer in the first instance, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): A supplementary question regarding sales. Can the minister tell us when we may expect

[Mr. McIntosh.]

a statement from him concerning the results of the talks which are going on with other countries pertinent to the marketing of wheat and other grain products?

Mr. Lang: In the ordinary course, announcements about sales are made from time to time as sales occur. Hon. members should note that there has been fairly frequent news recently of sales not only of wheat but of barley and other grains, and that these are running at a fairly high level now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mazankowski: I should like to ask the minister whether it is his intention to make a statement this afternoon.

Mr. Lang: No, Mr. Speaker.

PROVISION OF FREIGHT CARS FOR SPECIAL
DELIVERY PERMIT WHEAT

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): A supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio. In view of the fact that many of the delivery points still at the lowest quota levels are points which were unable to deliver a five-bushel quota last year and in respect of which provision was made for special delivery permits, may I ask whether provision is to be made for extra cars to take account of deliveries on special delivery permits?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): The grain to be delivered under special delivery permits is not treated differently from grain deliveries under other quotas. A purpose of the block system is to ensure in due course an equal opportunity for delivery as far as possible. Often it is the individual elevator companies which decide which particular elevator within their ownership should receive cars ahead of others; responsibility often rests with them.

ACTION TO EXPEDITE MOVEMENT OF WHEAT

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): In view of the fact that grain shipments into and out of Thunder Bay are falling seriously behind the target figure of some 1,200 or 1,300 cars per day, can the minister assure the House that steps will be taken immediately to make up this deficit so that our grain marketing commitments may be promptly and fully met?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Steps have already been taken to adjust the schedule for the handling of grain to the fact that the Lakehead got off to a slow