

In Newfoundland the report came out in the evening of the day on which the agreement was signed, and I remember it well. Next morning the quotations came in from the flour millers of Canada advancing the price to the same level as in all foreign markets, so that less than 400,000 people in Newfoundland paid an increased price which on 800,000 sacks, the equivalent of a year's requirement, would amount to an increase of about \$1 million. That price was increased the next year and again the following year, and there was a time when Newfoundland consumers paid an increased price equal to \$1,250,000 per year on a year's purchase of flour while the British Wheat Agreement was in force. Foreign prices had all gone up over the level that had previously prevailed, and that was the offsetting factor for the reduction to farmers under the British Wheat Agreement. It was the stabilizing effect of that agreement which permitted the advanced prices in foreign markets.

I thought I should make that clear, honourable senators. I have often heard it said that the farmers were penalized by that agreement. The amount of recovery by the increase in foreign prices was tremendous. I know that personally, because I was a member of a committee which took the matter up with the Newfoundland Government to try to get Newfoundland brought in under that agreement. Of course, our efforts were not successful, because the agreement applied only to Great Britain.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** May I say a word about that, honourable senators?

Before the British Wheat Agreement came into effect, at the beginning of the crop year in 1946, the first of August, the prices that governed were the wartime prices and the Wheat Board prices for wheat, which then were lower than the negotiated price with the United Kingdom. But as the honourable senator from St. John's West (Hon. Mr. Pratt) states, Newfoundland did not participate in the agreement. Consequently Newfoundland was in the same position as Holland or Denmark or any other country, and paid what was known then as the world market price for wheat. That explains why flour prices in Newfoundland advanced in the way they did after the war.

**Hon. Mr. Pratt:** The world market price went up as soon as the assured market in Great Britain was there by reason of the wheat agreement.

**Hon. Mr. Davies:** As one who knows nothing about the growing or storing of wheat, I should like to ask the honourable senator

from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) two questions. Who sets the price of wheat? And, does the price vary at all?

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** The Canadian Wheat Board sets the price; and it has varied, mostly downward, in the last few years.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Macdonald, the debate was adjourned.

## DIVORCE

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

**Hon. F. W. Gershaw,** for Hon. Mr. Roebuck, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Divorce, presented the committee's reports Nos. 25 to 37, and moved that the said reports be taken into consideration at the next sitting.

The motion was agreed to.

### BILLS—FIRST READINGS

**Hon. Mr. Gershaw** presented the following bills:

Bill N, for the relief of Joseph Alfred Victor Tasse.

Bill O, for the relief of Claudine Yvette Felicite Cavallero Neeley.

Bill P, for the relief of Evelyn Thelma Passineau Uyeda.

Bill Q, for the relief of Ronald Victor Turner.

Bill R, for the relief of Charles Frederick Church.

Bill S, for the relief of Sarah Sally Abramovici Schor.

Bill T, for the relief of Eunice Kennedy Standeven.

Bill U, for the relief of Kathleen Louise Blaylock Hall Dunning.

Bill V, for the relief of Mary Hilbert Madge.

Bill W, for the relief of Marthe Helene Le Bel Champion.

The bills were read the first time.

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall these bills be read the second time?

**Hon. Mr. Gershaw:** Wednesday next.

## PROPERTY QUALIFICATIONS OF SENATORS

### MOTION FOR SUPPLEMENTARY RETURN

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Honourable senators, with leave, I move:

That the Clerk of the Senate be authorized to receive the renewed declarations of property qualifications from those members of the Senate who have not had an opportunity to make and to file the same in accordance with Rule 105, and to make a supplementary return accordingly.

The motion was agreed to.