

Inquiries of the Ministry

charged with a prison offence, and after trial before the warden who had consulted with the commissioner of penitentiaries by telephone, they were sentenced to from five to ten strokes of the strap as a corrective measure, and this punishment was then inflicted. As a result of this action no further trouble developed, and the situation at the penitentiary has continued quiet and normal since.

The total number of convicts who participated in any way in the disturbances totaled eighty-five, and the offenders have been dealt with under the penitentiary regulations in varying degrees according to their guilt.

No one was injured in the disturbance, except one convict who cut his hand while putting his fist through a window.

The cause of the disturbance is still being investigated, but some convicts have stated that they expected extra food for Easter. The evening meal served on Easter Monday was examined by the senior officials of the penitentiary, and was found to be adequate and palatable. The majority of those who took part in the disturbance were employed in the penitentiary kitchen, where recent changes have been made to improve efficiency and discipline. It is thought that a few malcontents may have organized this demonstration to show their resentment at these changes.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT

ADJUSTMENT OF CONTRACTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. E. Jaenicke (Kindersley): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I am sorry I could not give him notice of the question, but I tried to reach him this morning. My question is based on a letter which I received from one of my constituents. Is it true that a definite adjustment might be made by the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with the contracts of the veterans of the first world war, and that the remainder of these old contracts will probably be cancelled?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Veterans Affairs): To answer the question as briefly as I can, it will be remembered that last year an amount was placed in the main estimates to enable my department to do something towards adjusting these old contracts under the soldier settlement board. These contracts have been in existence for a great many years. Excellent progress has been made, and while I am not able to vouch for the exactness of these figures, I believe approximately 600 of these old settlers accounts have been adjusted during the past twelve months partly due to this vote. All the \$150,000 has been used, with the exception of a small balance, and an equal amount has been placed in the main estimates this year.

It is expected if that is used in the course of the year much of the task will have been accomplished.

[Mr. Garson.]

COARSE GRAINS

METHOD OF HANDLING FOR CURRENT CROP YEAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. W. Burton (Humboldt): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but in his absence I shall have to direct the question to the Prime Minister. Will he indicate to the house whether the government has reached a decision as to the method of handling coarse grains for the coming crop year?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): As soon as a decision has been made in that regard it will be announced. No decision has yet been made and there is not likely to be a decision made until after the return to Ottawa of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe).

FISHERIES

POLICY OF FISHERIES PRICES SUPPORT BOARD FOR 1949

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Will the minister state the policy of the fisheries prices support board in the maritimes for the season of 1949?

Hon. R. W. Mayhew (Minister of Fisheries): That matter is now under consideration, and a decision will be made within the next few days.

WHEAT

REPAYMENT OF LOSSES UNDER AGREEMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Fair (Battle River): I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. Is it the intention of the present government, if returned to office after the coming election—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fair:—to reimburse the farmers of the prairie provinces for the losses which they have sustained under the wheat agreements?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I do not think it would be proper for any party to be making promises at this time as to what it will do. I am sure that whatever government is in office at that time will endeavour to reach a decision that will be fair both to the farmers and to the Canadian public generally.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY BILL

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$460,291,082, being one-third of the amount of each of the several items to be voted, as set forth in the main estimates