

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

order in council, approved yesterday, authorizing the issue of a proclamation to bring the Trade Marks Act into force on July 1, 1954.

I am also tabling another order in council revoking the trade mark registration regulations now in force, and substituting therefor the trade marks rules, with effect on July 1, 1954. A copy of the new rules is annexed to this order in council.

**TRADE****REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT ON PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In presenting the question I do so without having given notice to the Prime Minister because it is based upon a telegram I have received regarding the effect of the subject matter of the question. Have representations been made to the government of the United States with respect to the possible effect of the tariff changes that were announced as likely to take place in connection with fish, zinc and lead, having particular regard to the effect that would have not only on the metals that are being exported but on our fishing industry in Newfoundland and the Atlantic provinces?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** I am quite sure there have been conversations, but I will take the question as a notice and have an investigation made to be in a position to say exactly what was done in that respect.

**POTATOES****REGULATIONS RESPECTING IMPORTS  
FROM UNITED STATES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. James A. McBain (Elgin):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder whether the minister is aware that imported new potatoes are now being served in the parliamentary restaurant. If so, will the minister explain the import regulations on these new potatoes in view of the surplus of potatoes now on hand in Canada?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I obtained some new potatoes in the parliamentary restaurant so I presume there are some being served there. The arrangement between this country and the United States in connection with this matter is that seasonal duties are imposed on different vegetables,

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

including potatoes, that apply from one date to another. In the case of potatoes a higher duty is applied from June 15 to July 31. In other words a higher duty is imposed when our new potatoes come on the market. At other times the duties are lower, so that American potatoes do come in at this time of the year.

I would suggest it is not a bad thing either from the American point of view or from ours. At least, it has not been considered to be during the twenty-four or twenty-five years that these seasonal duties have been in force. Their potatoes and vegetables of different kinds come in fresh to this market at a time when we do not have them to put on the market. Then at a later date, when our products come on the market, there is a higher rate of duty on the United States products which tends to prevent them coming into this country during the period of time that our own products are being marketed. Therefore I have no doubt that we are eating American new potatoes at present, but I am sure there would be a great outcry from the housewives of Canada if they were compelled to prepare for their tables only old potatoes of last year.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISPOSAL  
OF 1953 CROP**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte):** I should also like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he give the house any figures with respect to carload shipments of potatoes from the maritime provinces and other parts of Canada to the United States since last season?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** I do not know that I can give figures to indicate the carload shipments of potatoes. Yesterday the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton asked me a question and I had some information prepared which I might read to the house. I do not know that I should read all of it, because there is quite a bit; but there will be copies available for any member who desires to have one.

The general summary of the statement is as follows: Based on April 1 figures of storage stocks of potatoes in Canada, it would appear that if sales remain at about the same level as in 1953 there will be a market for most of the potatoes remaining in eastern Canada. The stocks less 1953 marketings from the maritimes, less seed for use in spring seeding probably on a reduced acreage, less expected shrink, will leave few, if any, 1953 potatoes in eastern Canada by June 30.

Part of the problem at the present time is pressure by producers on the buyers to