

*Legislation Respecting Railway Matters***GRAIN****WHEAT—REQUEST FOR HIGHER
INITIAL PAYMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the current market situation, which appears to guarantee sales for all the grain that can be handled this year at 40 or 50 cents over the initial price, is the Canadian Wheat Board considering raising the initial price to producers on delivery to country elevators?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, such an increase can only be made by the governor in council under the Canadian Wheat Board Act, and various representations have been received from various quarters on this subject. The matter is under consideration.

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): On a supplementary question I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he could give us the approximate date on which we can expect a report from the governor in council. Can that information be included in the return to the question asked by the hon. member from Medicine Hat?

**MAINTENANCE OF RAILWAY
OPERATION ACT****PROVISION FOR RESUMPTION OF RAILWAY
OPERATIONS AND SETTLEMENT OF
LABOUR DISPUTE**

The house resumed, from Monday, August 29, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson for the second reading of Bill No. C-230, to provide for the resumption of operations of railways and for the settlement of the existing dispute with respect to terms and conditions of employment between railway companies and their employees.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, lest anyone be misled by various references made by the C.B.C. to the effect that I would be speaking today and indicating that I had not spoken yet, I would draw the attention of the news department to yesterday's *Hansard*.

Today I intend to review just a few matters. I do not have anyone like Mr. Lee to write my speeches. We are faced with a very serious situation, a strike which the government of Canada knew, or should have known for weeks, was going to take place. They treated the matter in a casual and

[Mr. Greene.]

irresponsible manner. At no time was there any apparent realization of the tremendously adverse consequences which would follow. The government took the attitude that with a strike under way it would be an easier way of securing legislation through parliament than meeting the certainty of the strike in advance. We in parliament have a tremendous responsibility at this time. We must try to do something to meet the catastrophic possibilities that have followed the actions of a government which in this, as in so many other matters, refuses and has refused to face the facts.

We want the strike to end. In our opinion the two-faced attitude which the government has shown in this legislation will not assure that objective. When the vote has taken place and parliament decides that this legislation shall be the law of the land, all of us will join in calling upon all Canadians to respect and follow the law. To do otherwise would be to undermine the power and prestige of parliament. Parliament's prestige depends upon respect. No parliament worthy of its name will rubberstamp a bill which in its opinion will not be effective.

I will not go into the 6 per cent which is offered under this legislation for this year. However, I will say that the government, by ineptitude and failure to act, has contributed to the breathtaking growth of strikes. A few months ago it settled two strikes, or a potential one and an actual strike, by a carrot in the form of a 30 per cent increase under what I choose to call the Pearson formula. Under this legislation the government is substituting the big stick for the carrot. This kind of attitude on the part of the government cannot but cause differences within this nation.

We are asked to join the government in legislation that will provide further instability, uncertainty and division. One only had to see the government yesterday in the course of the debate to realize that it is in a state of panic, that it is frightened and fearful. It now places the problem before parliament and says: You deal with this in the way in which we want to deal with it. Within the last fortnight I offered on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition our fullest co-operation toward parliament being called at once before the strike vote became effective. There was no reaction to that.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Such action would have the purpose of preventing the men from exercising their constitutional rights.

Mr. Starr: What are you doing now?