LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN Second Session — Fourteenth Legislature 15th Day

Tuesday, November 14th, 1961.

The House met at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

Before the Orders of the Day:

QUESTION RE GRAIN FOR FEED

Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is the provincial government making any effort to encourage the importation of oats or corn or other feed grains from the United States? Is there any way that some of the cattle liners which are going out of Moose Jaw almost daily, filled with cattle, down to cities like Sioux City could bring grain back to the area where there is a feed shortage?

Hon. Mr. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — There has been no movement of corn. They can do it if they wish. We did say to the truckers who are going from here to the States with cattle and truckers who are coming from the States for cattle here, that we would pay up to 75 per cent of the transportation costs on the movement of fodder from the United States to here, but the responsibility for acquiring the fodder and disposing of it would be the truckers. This rather simplified it. We did give them the transportation assistance up to \$12.00 a ton.

Mr. Thatcher: — Is there no program in connection with feed grain? If there is not, I wonder if the minister would give some consideration to looking into this matter. When the trucks are down there anyway I would think we could get some cheap feed back into Saskatchewan, where it is very urgently needed.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — It is doubtful if we could get corn. There has been some come up as I say but if it comes from Minnesota and Iowa I don't think

it would be quite competitive with what we can get here, considering transportation costs.

QUESTION RE MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

Mr. J.W. Gardiner (Melville): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health, and if it doesn't fall within his jurisdiction, possibly one of the other ministers might be able to give an answer. There has been a certain request within the last few weeks for the appointment of the medical health officer under the Emergency Measures Program and I am wondering whether the government is prepared to announce now or in the very near future such an appointment?

Hon. Mr. Erb: — Mr. Speaker, we will be able to announce the appointment of a medical health officer in the near future.

STATEMENT RE PAMPHLET

Mr. Ian H. MacDougall (Estevan): — Before the orders of the day, I would like to draw to the attention of the members a pamphlet which I had distributed last evening, put out by the Estevan chamber of Commerce advertising our very fine and wonderful city down there. I would recommend it to their reading.

QUESTION RE WEYBURN FIRE

Mr. A.H. McDonald (Moosomin): — Before the orders of the day are proceeded with I would like to ask the Minister of Health if any action has been taken at the mental institution in Weyburn to remove the fire hazard as claimed by the commission that is investigating the recent fire there. I made definite reference to mattresses and pillows made of foam rubber and other combustible material.

Hon. Mr. Erb: — The use of all foam rubber mattresses has been discontinued in the institution.

QUESTION RE ESTEVAN BRICK PLANT

Mr. Ian H. MacDougall (Estevan): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I would like to make reference to a statement by the Minister of Mineral Resources some two weeks ago, regarding the layoff at the Estevan brick plant. He informed us that there would be no lay-offs and they would be working on in the future. I would like to ask him how many employees have been laid off as of last week-end?

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank (Minister of Mineral Resources): — Mr. Speaker, at the time I made that statement I said there was no arrangement made at that time for a lay-off, but there might very well, in the future, be a shut-down for the winter season. I imagine that has taken place. I haven't heard directly but I am not surprised if it has taken place at this time.

Mr. MacDougall: — There were 14 last week-end. There will be 15 this week and . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order! The member may ask a question, but he is not in a position to give information.

QUESTION RE FREIGHT AND FODDER POLICY

Mr. Douglas T. McFarlane (Qu'Appelle-Wolseley): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can give this House any confirmation of the request made by the association of rural municipalities asking that the free freight and fodder policy be extended beyond December 1 — by that I mean the sharing of the transportation by the railways and by the federal government and by the provincial government. Will that be extended beyond December 1?

Hon. Mr. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — Mr. Speaker, we've had it under consideration for some time and insofar as the railways are concerned — and we've made our representation to Ottawa — they were able to have the freight assistance provided by the railways — the one-third reduction in freight rates, extended from October 31st to November 30th, and we have also considered,

in view of the fact that many farmers have difficulty in financing the purchase of fodder and feed supplies, particularly smaller farmers, we've decided to extend the freight assistance, both trucking and rail, to January 31 and the municipalities are being notified to that effect.

Mr. McFarlane: — This is a supplementary question. Maybe he didn't understand me correctly. Is the railway still sharing?

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — I doubt it very much. I don't think, and I can't speak for the railways, but at the present time they've extended their contribution to December 1st, or November 30th, whichever date you wish to take. I don't know if they will go beyond that or not. I rather doubt it.

STATEMENT RE CRESCENT DAIRIES

Mr. J.W. Gardiner (Melville): — Mr. Speaker, I noticed the Attorney-General is not here, but possibly the Premier could pass on the question to him. In the early part of the session I directed a question to the minister with regard to the securities commission investigations and to the operations of Crescent Dairies Limited, in particular in the Melville area, and since receipt of the answer to that question shareholders have told me that at no time were there any investigators from the securities commission out to enquire from them about the operations of Crescent Dairies in the Melville area. I would like to request the government, through the Attorney-General, to review the investigation that was made because of complaints that are coming to me from shareholders in Crescent Dairies Limited in the Melville area.

ESTEVAN BRICK PLANT

Mr. L.P. Coderre (Gravelbourg): — Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are proceeded with, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. He, not being around, I was wondering whether another minister would answer it. I was wondering whether he was aware that 36 men have been laid-off at the Estevan plant without the one weeks' written notice which is required under the labour code?

Mr. Speaker: — Order!

Hon. Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Speaker, on a point of order again the hon. member was giving information, not asking a question. I think it might be his information is incorrect, as usual. We have a union down there and they wouldn't stand for that.

The Assembly then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:00 o'clock p.m.