

## WAR VETERANS

### QUESTION AS TO INCREASE IN PENSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. E. Lennard (Wentworth):** I should like to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs whether the rumour is well founded that the government intends to increase war veterans' pensions by the amount recommended by the last house committee on veterans affairs, namely, 33½ per cent.

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** I have not heard the rumour referred to by my hon. friend.

**Some hon. Members:** Answer.

**Mr. Lennard:** I did not ask the minister if he had heard the rumour; I asked if the rumour is well founded.

**Mr. Gregg:** The answer is no.

## COARSE GRAINS

### INQUIRY AS TO MARKETING THROUGH WHEAT BOARD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether he can give us a report on the negotiations that have been going on between the dominion government and the three prairie provinces with regard to the marketing of oats and barley through the wheat board.

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I know of no recent negotiations on the subject. I am informed that a delegation will come to Ottawa later, but I have not been advised of the date of their visit.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Were they not here last week?

**Mr. Howe:** No, not so far as I know.

## FRASER RIVER

### QUESTION AS TO TABLING OF REPORT OF CONTROL BOARD

**Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Has the Minister of Public Works received any report from the Fraser river control board? If so, will he make it available immediately?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I believe the Fraser river control board reports to me, and I shall be glad to table a report shortly.

**Mr. Fulton:** It has been received, has it?

**Mr. Howe:** The government receives weekly progress reports, and from these can be com-

## Newfoundland

piled a report suitable for the house. I shall be glad to have that done and the report tabled.

## NEWFOUNDLAND

### APPROVAL OF TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill for the approval by parliament of the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada. The implementation of these terms will involve a charge upon and payment out of moneys in the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Is the minister not going to make his statement with the Speaker in the chair?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** I am prepared to make the statement at the time which might best suit the convenience of hon. members. I can make it now on the motion that the Speaker leave the chair, or I can make it as soon as the Speaker leaves the chair, when we are in committee. I had thought it might better suit the convenience of hon. members, since no doubt more than one will be speaking on this resolution, to have everyone speak under the same conditions, where questions may be put and answered, if hon. members should find it desirable. I am quite prepared to go on now, however, if it is the wish of hon. members that I do so while Mr. Speaker is in the chair.

**Mr. Drew:** I think it would be appropriate that the Prime Minister proceed with his explanation now, while the Speaker is in the chair.

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think all hon. members will be of the view that the measure with which the house is now called upon to deal is of an epoch-making character. This fifth session of the twentieth parliament has the historic task of considering the addition to Canada of the last segment in the original plan of the fathers of confederation. The bill to follow the resolution will ask parliament to give approval to the terms of union with Newfoundland which were signed in Ottawa on the 11th of December last.

Of course this is not the first time that the project of the fathers of confederation has received serious attention from the Canadian parliament and the Canadian public. It is well known to us all that two of the original members of the Quebec conference in 1864 were from Newfoundland. They participated in the resolution which ultimately proved to be the basis upon which the British North America Act was drafted, submitted to the parliament of the United Kingdom, and