

Inquiries of the Ministry

distribution of military decorations receivable by participants in world war II?

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I did not get notice of the hon. member's question, but I did answer the question the other day.

WHEAT

REPORTED PURCHASE OF 120 MILLION BUSHELS
IN CANADA BY ECA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. Smith (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In doing so I am not going to say a great deal, and I do not wish to be shouted down until I have said a word or two. Again in last evening's newspaper there was a dispatch from Washington which said definitely that Mr. Ralph A. Trigg, president of the Commodity Credit Corporation, stated in evidence before the senate committee on agriculture that they were buying from Canada 120 million bushels of wheat at \$2 a bushel. Having regard to his answer given yesterday as to general procedure, at which time he told us what would happen normally, I ask the minister if he will have someone make an investigation and let us know exactly what the position is. Perhaps he would do that tomorrow or Monday or Tuesday.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, no investigation is necessary. A sale of the magnitude mentioned by my hon. friend would not escape the notice of the government. In the first place I will tell him we have not that quantity of wheat to sell, and we have not had for a great many months. Obviously if he is referring to a price of \$2 a bushel, that is the price referred to for deliveries of wheat under the contract with the United Kingdom. That is the only wheat that is sold at \$2 a bushel. The amount of the contract is 140 million bushels for the crop year 1948-49.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): I will send the dispatch over to the minister now.

NEWFOUNDLAND

APPEAL TO PRIVY COUNCIL BY APPLICANTS
FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. In view of the announcement that the right to appeal to the privy council has been granted to certain appellants in Newfoundland with regard

[Mr. Probe.]

to Newfoundland's part in the agreement for union with Canada, has the Prime Minister taken into consideration what effect, if any, that would have upon the discussions now taking place in the house?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I have no information other than that gathered from the newspapers. However my understanding of the situation is that an action was instituted in the courts of justice of Newfoundland, and on motion it was dismissed as being frivolous and vexatious. An appeal was then taken to the appeal court of Newfoundland, and that appeal was dismissed, the appeal court confirming the opinion of the first judge that it was frivolous and vexatious. Now the newspapers report that leave has been granted to appeal to the privy council from the decision that the proceedings were frivolous and vexatious. Even if that appeal were heard, and even if it were allowed, it would not mean anything more than that the plaintiffs in the case would have the right to proceed on the merits of their suit; it being merely a pronouncement on a question of procedure. In view of the attitude taken by the government of Newfoundland as to the terms of this agreement, and the time limit for accomplishing the further proceedings required to bring it into effect, there should be no delay on our part in asking parliament to confirm the agreement.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON RADIO BROADCASTING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on two occasions the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann), in response to inquiries as to the setting up of a special committee on radio broadcasting, has left the impression that a committee would be called together if the desire to have that committee were made evident. I wish to leave no doubt that we are anxious to have a special committee proceed with an inquiry; therefore I wish the minister would deal with the matter on the understanding that there is a request that a special committee be appointed to deal with the subject as soon as possible.

NEWFOUNDLAND

APPROVAL OF TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA

The house resumed from Wednesday, February 9, consideration in committee of Bill No. 11, to approve the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada—Mr. St. Laurent—Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.