

Mr. ILSLEY: No; there is no thought of doing so. I do not mean that we shall always have it, but there is no thought at the moment of discontinuing it.

Mr. WRIGHT: The minister said in answer to my question that price ceilings had not been lifted in the United States on articles subsidized coming into Canada. I understand that on oranges in the United States the price ceilings were lifted and subsidies were paid on them coming into Canada.

Mr. ILSLEY: We have not subsidized oranges since the 1st of January, 1945.

Mr. BRACKEN: Has the minister with him at the moment any advisers who are familiar with meat rationing?

Mr. ILSLEY: Moderately so, I think. The rationing experts are not here, but the officials who are present could give some advice.

Mr. BRACKEN: I remember when the minister was dealing with this matter two or three months ago he indicated that there had been a tripartite arrangement on the part of Britain, the United States and Canada, in which the United States and Canada undertook to increase the supply of meats sent to the old country and to liberated countries. A meeting was called by President Roosevelt, as I remember. Can he tell me when that meeting was held.

Mr. ILSLEY: In April, 1945.

Mr. BRACKEN: At that time this government undertook to send more meat to the old country. If I remember rightly the government was sending sixty million pounds per month and it undertook to send about seventy-five million pounds per month, and to do that it was proposed by rationing to reduce the average amount consumed in Canada from, I believe, 145 pounds to 130 pounds per capita. I believe that is correct—the difference was about fifteen pounds.

Mr. ILSLEY: It was from 145 to 115, but we undertook to raise it to a little over 130.

Mr. BRACKEN: That was to make it possible to send additional amounts overseas.

Mr. ILSLEY: Not to send more than we sent in 1944, but to live up to the programme that we had outlined as appropriate for us in 1945—more than we otherwise would send.

Mr. BRACKEN: After coming back from that conference you undertook to increase the amount you were then sending overseas.

Mr. ILSLEY: Well, yes; I think that is correct—more than we otherwise would send. It was going down, if I remember correctly, and we wanted to keep up the programme.

Mr. BRACKEN: When dealing with the question of meat rationing the minister made that statement. It is reported at page 393 of *Hansard*. My point is this. The government proposed to increase the amount of meat it was sending overseas at that time. It did so at the very time when it knew that meat production in Canada was going down by double the amount by which it proposed to increase the supply for overseas shipment. The minister will find, by analyzing his own statement at page 393, in the first eight months of this year 270,000,000 pounds less of meat was produced than in the same period last year, 30,000,000 pounds a month less, and the government, in the face of that, undertook to send 15,000,000 pounds more a month overseas. My question is: Why did you not bring in meat rationing then?

Mr. ILSLEY: The hon. member is referring to April? Why did we not bring it in earlier than we did?

Mr. BRACKEN: Yes.

Mr. ILSLEY: There was a good deal of opposition to it and it was something that could not be brought about abruptly. Many preparations were necessary for it and the matter was considered for quite a period before we decided upon it.

Mr. BRACKEN: The only point I wish to make is this, and it will all be found in the minister's own statement. He proposed in September to increase the amount of meat we were sending by 15,000,000 pounds a month, and to do that he asked the Canadian people to eat less. In the very same address and in his own figures he pointed out what the bureau of statistics had always known, that the production of meat in Canada as shown by the slaughterings of live stock was down by more than thirty million pounds a month. My question is: when the government knew that and knew it would have to bring in rationing, why did it not bring in rationing then instead of leaving it until September?

Mr. ILSLEY: It was decided to bring it in long before September, but a great deal of preparation was necessary. I think it was decided about July. The middle of the summer, in the hot weather, is a bad time to bring in meat rationing, and there was continual argument about it. A great many people thought meat rationing would not