

the truth. The cooperage does not make lumber; it makes only barrels, and the barrels are not only distributed in British Columbia, but are exported almost throughout the world. One of the cooperage factories is next door to my closest neighbour in business, and therefore I know they have been going steadily ever since the war began, and there was no let-up in that cooperage plant prior to the strike.

I know it would help greatly if the box factories would open and get going. I know it would help considerably to have some of the fruit for which we have not packages exported to the United States. I know it would help if we could have the cooperages making barrels, because that is where our shortage is greatest. We have not enough to take care of the present crop; I understand that our shortage is 35,000 barrels. But putting in a controller, much as I should like to see it done in these industries, particularly the interior box factories, would not entirely solve the situation unless we included as well the logging operations in the greater part of Victoria.

I appeal to the box manufacturers, the workers and the loggers to try to settle the strike and to do so within the shortest possible time. It is going to have a continuing effect and this strike will spread to many other industries. This morning I had a long appeal from the pulp and paper association, the one I am most interested in, pointing out that a month is the maximum period during which any of them can run with the present stoppage of work in the mills; and if the pulp and paper mills go down, then again containers will be badly affected. I think, therefore, that a further appeal should be made to these people to resolve their differences and get back to work.

It should not be a matter of trying to see who can get the most out of the short supply of material. I do not think either side is wholly to blame in trying to grab for itself more than is really coming to it; but as far as the fruit is concerned the consumer in this instance can, I believe, help the producer or the farmer to take care of his fruit crop. It is not so long ago that we had to take our fruit to the factories or take it to our homes, not in to-day's modern type of boxes, crates and hallocks. Many a time we had to pack our fruit in whatever we could obtain. We packed our apples in bags and brought our berries in containers of many kinds, and I am sure the consumer to-day would be only too glad to bring home his berries himself in

whatever containers he has. In that way he would help out considerably in the supply of crates, boxes and hallocks.

I appeal also to the producers. I think they can go a little too far in their price. The price ceiling has been removed and to-day they are not giving very much consideration to the consumer. If we want the price ceiling to remain in effect in Canada and operate fairly to all, the first thing we must do is to stamp out the man or woman who wants to be greedy or to take advantage of the situation in which we find ourselves to-day.

In the present situation our first obligation is to see that there is fair play. I am afraid that in this strike, from the point of view of the farmers, the situation is not what it should be. I understood last night that strawberries were selling at forty-five cents a hallock on the coast at this time of the year. I am sure that is too much. The consumer has some rights in this world, not only the producer, and I am a producer myself.

Yesterday the hon. member for Fraser Valley said that the berries were rotting in the ground. I am sure he did not wish to convey quite that impression. The height of the strawberry season will be about from the 17th to the 20th of this month. Raspberries will come a little later and cherries about the same time. I believe we have at the present time enough crates and barrels to take care of the immediate supply of strawberries and cherries and some of the raspberries. But if these containers are all used up for that purpose we are going to be short for the later crops. I quite agree with those who say that, no matter how quickly we get back into the production of crates and hallocks, we shall never catch up with the demand this year. This will be the largest fruit crop in the history of British Columbia. It is estimated that the apple crop in the Okanagan valley alone will amount to eight million boxes. I am sure that would sound like splendid news to the starving people of Europe and to the children in England who probably have not seen an apple for years. Are we, the workers, factory men and farmers, going to fight with one another and prevent that badly needed food from going to these people? Surely to heaven there is more humanity in the people of Canada than would seem evident at the present time. If there is anything anyone can say or do to-day, not to agitate the matter but to appeal to the sense of justice and the humanitarian feelings of people to get the men back to work producing so that others may eat, instead of having