

everything possible is being done to meet their desperate needs. It is largely for these reasons that it would not be easy to place before the Canadian Government a programme calling for drastic sacrifices. This could only be done if an authoritative statement were forthcoming, showing that these sacrifices were essential as may well be the case, if not to success in the war, at least to the prospect of securing many of the important objectives for which we have been fighting. The second condition would be that corresponding sacrifices should be forthcoming from the United States and from the United Kingdom. It is probable that the situation in the United States is somewhat similar, although, of course, its people have undergone only three years of wartime shortages as against five years in Canada and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom, in turn, may be able to forgo an increase in its rations but it can only be expected to do so if the people can be assured that the sacrifices which the United Kingdom has made and is making in the matter of civilian consumption are likely to have a genuine counterpart in the United States and in Canada.

7. The considerations set out in the foregoing paragraphs have been brought together in order to suggest that any real achievement with regard to the supply situation for relief purposes in 1945 will require a thorough-going agreement among the three countries most concerned, although this agreement may be of an informal character. I feel that it would be a great mistake to place any proposals before the Canadian Government which are of a piecemeal character. There is a very big issue to be faced and a correspondingly strong case should be prepared if we are to face it. The position with regard to sugar is peculiar because a substantial and easily-justifiable reduction of consumption in the United States could meet those requirements for which it is expected that shipping can be provided in the course of 1945. The position with respect to meat is one of greater difficulty. Large supplies can be obtained in one way only, namely, by a reduction in United States consumption. There is, however, some reason to suppose that the Canadian per capita consumption of meat is higher than that of the United States and, although a reduction in Canada's per capita consumption can only have a very small effect on the general supply position because of Canada's small population, nevertheless, such a reduction would have to be faced if the United States were expected to take drastic action. Any reduction in Canada's consumption of meat would require a political decision at a very high level and the case for such a decision would have to be of overwhelming strength.

8. It is for these reasons that I consider Mr. Law's visit of very great importance and consider that it may well be that the time is ripe in Washington for facing a very important question and making very important decisions. It would be appreciated, therefore, if you will keep me fully informed of the progress of the discussions particularly of the disposition of the United States authorities to take effective action. You will naturally wish to know how far you can go in stating or assuming that Canada is willing to make substantial sacrifices which, to be of importance, cannot be merely financial but must take the form of forgoing actual physical supplies of food and clothing. It is,