

FOOD

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Well, Don, you may be sure that food, and the world's food crisis have top priority her^e/in Ottawa. Important cabinet decisions will be announced her^e/in a few days. Not even international espionage has sidetracked the urgency of the 1946 food crisis.

It was a week ago Tuesday that Mr. King got an urgent cable from Prime Minister Attlee. Similar cables had been despatched from London to Washington and Australia. These cables asked us to rush overseas this winter and spring, every pound of cereals that we could muster.

What everyone wanted to know, of course, was why the situation had suddenly become so grave.

Also, if things were as bad as Mr. Attlee had painted, what could, or should Canada do.

The first question: why this sudden emergency? is a tricky one. Hardly anyone will give you a straight answer here at Ottawa. That's because the real facts are a severe indictment of government policy in another country.

What really happened is this:

Last year, on the basis of assured wheat supplies from United States, Britain shipped a large quantity of Canadian wheat to Europe. For various reasons, the United States failed to come through. As a result, Britain is now said to be 60 million bushels short of grain. That's why she may have to ration bread - unless she can greatly increase or speed up cereal shipments from North America.

On top of this wheat crisis there is also the prospect of a grave famine in India. Both wheat and rice crops there are likely to be short. Unless India