

C188693

*Confidential* NAR/McK  
Feb. 13, 1946.  
*Grain - wheat Policy*  
*Regulation*  
*W.D. 11 - Combined Food Board*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER:

(1) The attached note summarizes the points raised in Mr. Gardiner's meeting on Saturday with officials of departments concerned with the food policy. There is of course room for further exploration and argument about each of the methods suggested for increasing the quantity of wheat that can be shipped abroad from Canada this year. Some of them are probably alternatives, i.e., if the Government decided to raise the flour extraction ratio - thereby reducing the supply of mill feeds - it would probably be impracticable to release stocks of low-grade wheat now held for animal feeding for human consumption.

(2) To my mind the interdepartmental consideration given the general problem has been inadequate. I think people here have not realized what the social and political consequences of food shortage on the threatened scale might be; we are also inclined to rest, a bit complacently, on a very good record of past and present performance.

My own view is that the people of Canada will wish to make new efforts to help meet a world shortage and will expect the Government to give advice and direction as to the form those efforts could most effectively take. Specifically - if unfairly - they will judge our action by two or three fairly arbitrary criteria. If these criteria are in fact inapplicable to the