

and raspberries it was peas. When the farmers were dumping their peas in the Fraser river public pressure became so great that the government put a controller in the American Can company, and afterwards a settlement was negotiated. The greater part of that crop was saved. It is our contention as British Columbia members that the government can do an exactly similar thing immediately in relation to the cooperages and box factories of British Columbia, to save, not all the crop, because I am convinced by the figures read by the hon. member for Fraser Valley and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) that even a 24-hour a day production in these small box factories of British Columbia will not be sufficient to supply containers for this record crop we are expecting; but if such a controller were put in to-morrow morning, a very great part of that crop would be saved.

The Minister of Agriculture expressed a fear that there might not be sufficient logs to permit the operation of these box companies very long. I can assure him that there are enough logs in the water in my constituency of Vancouver North to keep the factories running throughout the summer.

Mr. STIRLING: And in the interior.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): There are logs in the water, in the harbour, across the lower mainland, and, I am sure, in the interior sufficient to supply material for these containers.

Mr. GARDINER: Are they available?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): Yes, they would be available.

As far as the settlement of the lumber strike is concerned, I am not mentioning the issues of the strike at all, but I am concentrating on the strike as far as it affects these little box factories. Knowing somewhat of conditions in British Columbia, I believe there is very little likelihood, now that the Sloan report has been turned down by the union, of any settlement being effected for at least a month, because in the natural condition of British Columbia we are now approaching what is called the fire season there. The woods are so dry that logging operations are forbidden; the logging operators will not be operating for a month or six weeks, and they will, therefore, not be very strongly disposed to conduct further negotiations immediately, in view of the fact that they could not operate their camps in any event. If such is the case we can look forward to the complete wastage of our fruit, egg and fish harvest this summer, unless immediate action is taken by the

[Mr. J. Sinclair.]

government to instal a controller in the box factories and cooperages of British Columbia to-morrow morning.

Mr. ILSLEY: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? If a controller were appointed, is there any assurance whatever that the men would go back to work?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): I feel very badly, I may say, in having let down the Acting Prime Minister previously. I did convey to him, at our meeting, the assurance I thought I had from the leaders that they would consent to accepting his appeal, which they did not do. I do not wish to put myself in the position of speaking on behalf of those who are leading the union. I do not, however, know of any strike in Canada where the government put in a controller, where the men have refused to go back. In the case of the American Can strike last summer, the men went back immediately.

Mr. MAYHEW (Victoria, B.C.): I do not come from a rural riding, but my constituency is surrounded by fruit growers and particularly by small fruit farmers, and I wish first of all to congratulate the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) on the way he has presented his case to-day. I think he has set a very high standard for himself and for his future work in this house. However, there are one or two points he mentioned to which I wish to refer, and one was mentioned by the hon. member for Vancouver North (Mr. Sinclair).

One point referred to was the open invoice which was permitted by Donald Gordon. That was merely an open invoice; it was not an open price, and it was something that was to be settled at a later date. It is a small point, but it is one to which reference has been made and I thought I should make it clear. Immediately that letter was issued, the wartime prices and trade board did send to Vancouver someone to negotiate with the box manufacturers for a price on crates and hallocks and eventually they arrived at a price which gave that industry the ten per cent increase. They no sooner had that adjustment made than the strike occurred, and naturally that tied up things entirely. As to whether that price would be sufficient now, it is not for me to say, but probably it would be open for negotiation. Certainly at the time the price was sufficient to maintain a profit.

It has been said here that the cooperages and box plants have been closed down for lack of logs or in consequence of converting their lumber to other uses. That is hardly