

Hon. Mr. Burchill: There are about 40 bushels to the long ton.

Hon. Mr. Thorvaldson: That would be 72 million bushels.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): It is a complicated calculation. When the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) has concluded his remarks, I shall be happy to put on record the amount of money that is involved with respect to wheat, milk powder and atta flour for India, and wheat to Pakistan, but I am afraid I have not the bushel figures.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I understand the price per bushel is over \$2, and if our expenditure is \$22,500,000 it should not be difficult to calculate.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): The amount is for wheat and flour.

Hon. Mr. Paterson: That would work out at half a million long tons of wheat; that is, approximately 18 million bushels at \$2.25 per bushel, or about \$40 million.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: As we know, since obtaining her independence, India has attempted a series of five-year plans, which unfortunately have not been very successful, chiefly because her population is increasing at a terrific rate. Indeed, since 1947, the year of her independence, India's population has increased by 160 million people.

I was pleased to get a circular a few days ago with reference to this matter. It is called "News from Oxfam of Canada." I presume that other senators received this circular also. In addition to the Canadian Government giving \$22,500,000 worth of wheat, churches, individuals and societies across the country are making donations.

According to this circular, the national chairman of Oxfam, Mr. Hawkins, says in regard to India:

We cannot turn our backs on the problem; our present grant is extremely small, compared to the seriousness of the situation.

A cable from the Oxfam representative said:

We are faced with a massive disaster; 30 million people in South Bihar alone are involved.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): That is in one state.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I understood the leader to say that this aid also is being given to Pakistan.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Yes. Some \$1½ million worth of wheat is to go to Pakistan out of this allocation.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: The press officer of Oxfam quotes again from the cable sent by the Oxfam field representative, Mr. Howard:

Five districts are having starvation deaths now, and the numbers will leap up in the next two or three weeks. Some of the villages I visited close to Budh Gaya had groups of people already prostrate with starvation.

In this local area, 100,000 children under five and 250,000 children under 12 are affected.

As I say, this is in that particular local area. He goes on to give much more information, but we know from what we have heard and from what he says in his report that the situation is most serious.

This situation pinpoints and emphasizes one aspect which has been mentioned in the Senate, and which I have heard mentioned in the United Nations and in the Parliamentary Association. The world's number one problem in these great Eastern countries today is that of feeding the people. This problem has been debated at the United Nations every year, and also in Dublin when I was at the International Parliamentary Association conference there. The problem is the tremendous increase in population.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The population explosion.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: The population explosion. It used to take some hundreds of years for the world population to double, but now it doubles in about thirty-five years.

Besides giving food to these people, which is all right in times of stress such as this, what the Western nations particularly are trying to do is to teach the people better methods of farming and better ways of raising their own foods and crops. Canada is doing her share in this, as are other countries. I do not think we are doing more than our share, and there has been some criticism that we are not doing as much as we should. Nevertheless, we stand high in the list of aiding countries.

It is not necessary for me to make further remarks. This proposal is one which appeals mainly to all of us in the Senate. It appeals