

TIGHT BINDING.

C127813

I. SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS IN TIME OF WAR. (Paper No. E.(37)9).

THE CHAIRMAN said that during recent years the United Kingdom Government had been pursuing rather intensively the question of supplies of war materials in time of war.

An important part of these supply preparations dealt with the question of raw materials, and on this wide subject some progress had been made.

As would be seen from Paper No. E(37) 9, which was under consideration by the Committee, the United Kingdom was dependent to a large extent on the Dominions and India for many of these raw materials. For example, a large variety of materials came from Canada, Australia, South Africa, and India, and in order to prepare the necessary supply plans for war, it was vital to know whether the United Kingdom Government could count in war on securing adequate supplies.

As yet it could hardly be said that the point had been reached where it would be possible to lay down the degree of dependence on the respective Dominions and India for each individual item of these raw materials. The lists of raw materials given in the Paper could only be regarded as an indication of what might be required, and would naturally vary according to the circumstances existing at the time when these articles would be required.

It was not his intention that the Committee should discuss detailed plans today, but it would appear desirable for the United Kingdom, the Dominions and India to come to a general agreement as to the principle that supplies of raw materials to the United Kingdom would not be restricted in war. If, however, it was possible to get to the stage when the Dominions and India would definitely agree to reserve supplies of raw materials for the United Kingdom in war, this step would obviously be one of great advantage.

The Principal Supply Officers Committee Organisation in the United Kingdom attached great importance to the

- 1 -

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 180, pages C127609-C128206)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA