

Before I sit down I wish to say that I concur in the remarks of the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright), the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Ross) and others with respect to the situation which the rural housewife finds herself in at the present time. However, if there is no sugar she cannot secure it. But I suggest that if at some time in the future it is discovered that you have extra sugar, you should endeavour to provide an additional supply for rural housewives, without giving additional consideration to people living in urban centres, because, after all, it is extremely difficult for a man and his wife and, let us say, three children to get along on the present sugar rationing, even without the making of pastries, whereas if I live in a town all I have to do is go to the bakery and procure these things, which, of course, the rural housewife is not able to obtain. So that, while I am not trying to tell the minister how to do it, I suggest that if he finds he has an extra amount of sugar he should try to make it available to housewives in the more remote areas.

In conclusion, may I ask what arrangement has been made to provide canneries or processors engaged in the canning of fruits with sugar?

Mr. ILSLEY: They will be given the sugar they require for light syrup for the canning of fruits.

Mr. SHAW: What quantity is expected, as compared with the volume of processing carried on last year? Do they intend to extend the volume of production?

Mr. ILSLEY: It will be lower, because the fruit crop will be lighter. There will not be as much fruit available.

Mr. WRIGHT: I should like to say a word in agreement with the speaker who has just taken his seat. If the minister feels that a larger allowance cannot be made to rural housewives, the sooner we have rationing of jams, jellies and marmalades the better, and that distribution should be made equitably across the dominion, so that people in the rural areas will be able to obtain their share of these particular goods. I know that rural stores in outlying areas have not these things on their shelves, and the people living in those areas are not able to obtain them.

Mr. STIRLING: It is much the same in urban centres.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): I believe the fact that the Department of Munitions and Supply has taken the jams and jellies is what has made them so scarce in the stores.

Mr. STIRLING: You cannot get them here.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): In Ottawa I went to seven grocery stores and could not get jam or marmalade.

Mr. SHAW: Of course that is in the one place. I did not mention Ottawa.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): But it is the same all across the country. The shortage of jams and jellies in the stores is going to make it so much harder for the housewife, especially one who has a husband or son working in a munition plant, because she needs something with which to make sandwiches, and she cannot get meat.

The minister remarked last year that there were abuses. Last year, if you bought an eleven-quart basket of fruit you were allowed six pounds of sugar if you intended to make it into preserves, and eleven pounds if you intended to make it into jam. The government was at fault in this, because we did not need that much sugar, though in many instances the storekeepers would let you have it. Many a housewife would say, "I do not want eleven pounds; I want only five, or four." Now it is up to the government to find ways and means to have fruit made into preserves or jam with less sugar, and the sooner they get recipes out to the housewives the better for the government.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Would the minister tell us whether there is any sufficient reason why wholesale and systematic rationing should be more difficult in Canada than it is in Great Britain?

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): We live higher.

Mr. ILSLEY: I am informed that there are several reasons.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think it would be worth while to have the minister discuss those reasons.

Mr. ILSLEY: All right, I will do so tomorrow.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.