

*United Nations Agreement*

members may recall, that Canada has had a great opportunity. She has not failed to make use of her opportunity in UNRRA. She has a place there which is second only to the great powers. I ask hon. members to consider the fact that Canada is chairman of the committee on supplies; Canada is chairman of the interim food commission; Canada is a member of the regional committee for Europe; Canada is a member of the combined food board and is a member of the combined production and resources board. We can apply the functional principle too far. We cannot be on every board that there is in the world. Hon. members will, I hope, see that Canada has not only fair representation but also great opportunities, and her place is recognized by the nations.

In answer to the question with regard to protective foods, it is important to recall that cereals are the easiest means of providing energy, preventing starvation, and providing relief in the shortest possible time. We have had a good deal of experience in this through the provision of relief to Greece. Many Canadians do not realize that since August, 1942, we have been providing 15,000 tons of cereals a month to Greece. At Atlantic City I met the representative of the Swedish Red Cross who had charge of the administration of relief in Greece, and he told me, if I remember the figures correctly, that the wheat we provided enabled Greece to increase their food ration by 400 calories a day to over three million of the population and that it represented the difference between starvation and survival for half the population of Greece. Since that supply of wheat has been made available through Canada, other nations have made available other foods. The prime necessity for that kind of food having been filled by Canada, other nations are making available to Greece protective and other foods, while Canada herself is also making available some protective foods to Greece to-day. We have had that experience. We have found that the easiest way to provide relief is with cereals. But that, of course, does not eliminate other foods. I can assure my hon. friend that in the schedules of requirements that I have seen, the kind of consideration that he has mentioned has been kept in mind by some of the best qualified food experts and transportation experts in the world who are engaged in this work.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Is the Red Cross handling that work in Greece?

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes. It is done by Swedish and Swiss representatives for the International Red Cross and done, I am told,

[Mr. Claxton.]

with very great efficiency. I am informed that all the wheat we send reaches the people for whom it is intended.

Mr. SLAGHT: One of the points on which I had intended to ask the parliamentary assistant for information was the one just raised by my hon. friend, as to whether or not the Red Cross with all its traditions, training and efficiency will be used as an agency in working out the details of the agreements under UNRRA. I do not find that in the agreement itself; I fancy it is a matter of administration.

It does seem to me—perhaps I should have said this on the second reading—that this bill is the most important piece of legislation which the Parliament of Canada has had to consider since we met in September, 1939, and declared war on Germany and that we would stand by the side of the mother country in this struggle. It is a piece of legislation of which any country which professes Christianity and a belief in the doctrines of the Sermon on the Mount may well be proud, because it is a declaration of those great principles carried into realistic effect for the purpose of clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. There is nothing but the greatest humanity behind the whole principle of this bill.

I endorse the view of my hon. friend the member for Rosetown-Biggart that this will not end in a year or two. I believe that we as one of the "have" countries are embarking upon an international programme which we shall be proud to carry on for many years to come for the benefit of the less fortunate "have not" countries. In that connection the committee may be interested in knowing something of the terrific and deliberate devastation that our gangster enemies are carrying out in European countries. I do not propose to give the committee any harrowing details. But in the early part of March last, our allies the Russians, in defeating certain of the German army corps, came upon and took over a series of documents issued by the German high command which were startling in their disclosures of a deliberate policy of inhumanity by the German high command. I have in my hand a copy of the English edition of the *Moscow News* of Wednesday, March 15, 1944. It is published in Moscow, and I should like to read a very few extracts which will demonstrate the extent of the devastation wrought by Germany in European countries which we are hopeful and expect to relieve under the provisions of this bill. The quotation starts:

To the monstrous dossier of Hitlerite infamies new documents have been added, in which the executioners themselves reveal the methods by which they effected the terror that has come to be synonymous with Hitlerism.