

*United Nations Agreement*

UNRRA is a partnership of the nations which stands for civilization to help all humanity. President Roosevelt said, "Nations will learn to work together only by actually working together."

Canada is a fortunate country. Our cities and ports and fields have not been bombed and scorched. Our people have not been tortured, starved, enslaved and shot. Canada is one of the most fortunate countries on the face of the earth with greater resources for her population than any other. Providence has been generous to Canada, and our position gives us opportunities and gives us responsibilities to match our opportunities.

The hope may be expressed that the house will be unanimous in the acceptance of this bill and show that all Canada is united in willingness to do our share in helping humanity.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Bradette in the chair.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2—Power to carry out agreement.

Mr. COLDWELL: I would ask the parliamentary assistant what steps had been taken to ensure that there will be adequate supplies. The united nations food conference had a great deal to say about that last summer. Have any plans been worked out to ensure that we have all supplies required for this particular purpose? I have in mind, of course, that at the conference there was some discussion as to the necessity for some of the more favoured nations, including ourselves and the United States, continuing rationing for a time in order to ensure that food supplies would be available for the nations to which we shall make these contributions when the war is over.

The stocks of wheat are going down, and the supplies of animal products are becoming shorter all the time. Has there been some discussion between these two groups with respect to providing adequate supplies to meet the requirements of this objective?

Mr. CLAXTON: The UNRRA agreement provides that the director general, in assessing supplies requirements, shall consult with inter-governmental authorities. In this instance those intergovernmental authorities are the combined food board, the combined production and natural resources board, and the shipping board. As hon. members are aware, on those boards are representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States, with Canada as the only other member of the combined food board and the combined production and resources board. Those boards are charged with

[Mr. Claxton.]

the duty of allocating supplies of commodities in short supply. UNRRA will be a claimant on the boards for supplies. In this way the whole global picture involving supplies to the military authorities and to civilian countries will be surveyed in one place, by one set of authorities. Those authorities have not any final say, but they make recommendations which are usually effective.

Already there have gone forward from UNRRA and from the military authorities requirements for the supplying of relief; and the administration is discussing with the combined boards the sources of supplies which will be approached. I believe the hon. member for Lake Centre, who referred to the use of agricultural products, need have no further assurance, because the fact stands out that for some time after the end of the war there will be a shortage of foodstuffs throughout the world. Our farmers can grow everything they have any capacity to grow, in confidence they will find a ready market for their products.

Mr. COLDWELL: I had this in mind: is it not the duty of the government or, if you like, the house, to see to it that our people are kept aware of the fact that we shall require large quantities of food, not only now but after the war, and particularly quantities of protective foods such as meats, dairy products and the like?

Mr. CLAXTON: I think there is something in what the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggarr has said. However, we do not know yet how short supplies will be, nor have we had yet any demand from UNRRA, or any indication as to the kind of supplies she will need from us. We may assume that the largest in quantity will be wheat, and after that various kinds of foods, and even protective foods of which we may have a surplus at that time.

Mr. COLDWELL: Are there not two points of view regarding that? Cereals are grown more rapidly than live stock, and it is thought by some that we might be called upon to provide protective foods while Europe is growing cereals and preparing to rebuild her live stock. Are there not two points of view on that?

Mr. STIRLING: There is only one point of view, Mr. Chairman, namely, that it is six o'clock.

Mr. COLDWELL: I had overlooked that.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.