

improvement on what has been done, I should like to point out how this has worked out in practice, and perhaps that will be considered as an indirect suggestion that will help in solving some of these difficulties. The parliamentary assistant to the minister said that a larger amount had to be given in rural areas than in urban areas.

Mr. ABBOTT: That was the suggestion made to each local ration board.

Mr. LOCKHART: There is no doubt that that was conscientiously carried out. I went upstairs a short time ago and got a file containing some evidence of how this has worked out. Later on I shall give the minister a memorandum about this. I am not criticizing the board. The minister has stated that he would try to do something should the season happen to turn quite hot, the fruit ripen quickly and it be found impossible to ship it to the larger centres. He said an effort would be made to prevent the tremendous amount of waste that might occur. As an illustration of what has occurred, in a strictly rural area the people were allowed ten pounds per person, and just a few miles away the people in two urban centres were allowed twelve and a half pounds per person. In that case it worked out just the opposite.

Mr. ABBOTT: Did everybody in the urban centre get twelve and a half pounds?

Mr. LOCKHART: That is the information I have. On a rural road running out of a smaller urban municipality a family of four got forty-five pounds, while the next-door family of five got fifty pounds. Some correction is necessary in cases of this kind.

Mr. ABBOTT: Were they in the same ration area?

Mr. LOCKHART: Definitely so; they were next-door neighbours. I have been making a study of this, or I would have drawn it to the minister's attention a week or so ago. These people say that they are not complaining about sugar rationing if it is necessary; but they do not want discrimination and desire to help to correct any discrimination. I think it should be realized that the people are trying to do their best. The hon. member for Westmount perhaps worked this out favourably in his own area, but—

Mr. ABBOTT: I had nothing to do with it.

Mr. LOCKHART: We are in the very heart of the fruit belt.

Mr. MacNICOL: Westmount is not in the fruit belt.

Mr. ABBOTT: We buy a lot of Niagara fruit.

[Mr. Lockhart.]

Mr. LOCKHART: Perhaps if I give the minister or his assistant this information, something can be worked out. If there is any sugar available, I again urge the minister to give it to the fruit centres if it is needed to prevent waste when fruit cannot be shipped to the larger urban centres.

Mr. CARDIFF: I want to congratulate the minister and the government upon trying to ration sugar and give approximately the same amount to each person. But the fact is that the farmer's wife must depend entirely on fruit that she cans herself, while the woman in the town or city, who perhaps never does any canning—at least a great many of them do not—is able to go down to the store and buy canned fruit. The woman on the farm must feed the threshing gang and the silo filling gang with what she puts up herself, and her own family must be provided for. The people on the farm have very few opportunities to go out for a meal, whereas those in the urban centres are able to do this. Just how this can be equalized is more than I can say, but it is something that should be given consideration. I do not think it would be fair to give everyone the same amount of sugar, because they would not use it; the country people should have a larger ration than the city people.

Mr. SHAW: In my opinion there is no fool-proof scheme for rationing anything and I do not propose to try to advance one. It is unfortunate that the housewives of Canada were given to understand that they would have an opportunity to can more fruit this year than they could last year. However, it did occur, and I sincerely trust that the government will endeavour to prevent a recurrence of that situation.

Has the minister contemplated the rationing of jams, jellies, marmalades and honey? I have always felt that, where scarcities occur, the fairest method of dealing with the distribution of the commodity is through rationing. We recognize, of course, that in war time the occurrence of shortages is inevitable; we are not complaining about that. But this is my personal experience. In my own town, a town of 1,200 people, the word "jam" or "jelly" or "honey" has become a forgotten part of our vocabulary. Yet I find that on going to other centres—we do not have to name them—we have no difficulty in procuring these articles in restaurants. We find that stores secure shipments periodically, although not all that their customers require. I should like to ask the minister if he has contemplated the rationing of these commodities, as tied right up with the sugar question.