

Mr. FAIR: Have losses been sustained by the British government in the operation of legislation similar to this?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I believe I shall be able to make a statement on that. I am not sure, but I think the officials in my department have some information on the point. My understanding is that the losses have been kept down to a very small point.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Would this apply to sales of wheat?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): No.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Not at all?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): No. I do not think it applies to sales of wheat.

Mr. SENN: Does it apply to any agricultural product, whether manufactured or in its natural state, or is it for other manufactured goods?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): My understanding—and of course I am speaking this morning without having assistants in front of me—is that manufactured products only are to be dealt with.

Mr. SENN: But there are manufactured products such as canned goods. I suppose bacon, when it is cured, would be considered as a manufactured product? Does it apply to that class of goods, or to goods which are not agricultural in any sense of the term?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): It applies to products which cannot ordinarily be handled through the regular channels. It applies particularly to countries which are not in a position to pay cash now but which, it is considered, will be in a position within a reasonable length of time.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): That is not a very clear statement. The statement the minister has just made indicates that probably the greatest requirements of those countries will be for processed agricultural products, such as those mentioned by the hon. member for Haldimand. They will require bacon, processed beef, and various other agricultural products, including canned vegetables.

Mr. SENN: And flour.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): It has been made clear for some time that those will be the goods for which those countries will want credits. Surely we are not going to pass a bill of this kind without making provision for goods for which we have been led to believe for years there would be a market. We have understood

that goods of this kind would be required for months and years following the cessation of hostilities.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): No; it does not necessarily mean that. I might add that we are not asking for the passage of the bill at this time. We are only asking that it be advanced one stage, so that the bill can be dealt with.

Mr. GREEN: Does it apply also to purchases by united nations relief agencies? Will the sales to those agencies be supported or guaranteed in any way?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): No; it will be entirely supplementary to and outside of that.

Mr. SENN: If the resolution passes the committee stage we will have no other opportunity to get information.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): Oh, yes, you will.

Mr. SENN: Not until the principle of the bill has been passed on second reading. We will have to assent to second reading, which adopts the principle of the bill. If I thought for one moment that no class of agricultural products was going to be included in the bill, I would be inclined to vote against it. We have been led to believe, as the hon. member for Souris has pointed out, that following the war there would be a great demand for agricultural products of this country from other countries which will be badly in need of them, countries which have been overrun by the enemy. If no provision is made in the bill to support the export of those goods produced by farmers, I would be inclined to vote against it.

Mr. GARDINER: Mr. Chairman, I have before me a certain bill which is supposed partly to deal with the question raised by the hon. member. The present position in connection with bacon, cheese and other farm products of that type is that we enter into agreements with the governments of the countries with which we are dealing. It is assumed that a certain amount of that will be done in the period following the war. The products dealt with in that way do not come under this bill. My understanding is that products, which do come under the bill, are not dealt with that way. The bill providing for the handling of floor prices on farm commodities following the war does touch upon the point which has been discussed.

Mr. PERLEY: Then we may take it from the statement of the Minister of Agriculture that actually there will be three boards marketing agricultural products. First there will be the wheat board, which is not men-