

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

will be no going back on the deal once the deal has been made.

We have surpluses piling up in this country. Now, I am not one of those who grieves too much over seeing some wheat on our farms as a reserve. I think that is a good thing. But that is a very different thing from seeing the vast accumulation that is there today, some of it out in the open fields and exposed to the weather because it cannot be disposed of through any of the channels of trade. We see the same kind of thing in British Columbia. The other day I learned that there are millions of pounds of salmon, a record catch for this year. Some salmon has been carried over from the previous years, and today we are not sure where a market is going to be found for the British Columbia salmon. I know that when I was at the United Nations one of our advisers was doing his level best, whenever the opportunity arose, to try to find some outlet for codfish from Newfoundland. The apple growers of the Annapolis valley and British Columbia are also facing restricted markets. While it is satisfactory, therefore, to see quantities of food within our country, we must find the essential markets to dispose of those great accumulations of food.

The extent of this accumulation of grain is due to the fact that Canada and the United States have produced their third successive wheat crop which is larger than average. In the case of Canada the latest estimate I have seen—it was the October estimate—sets the crop at 594 million bushels. May I add also that, fortunately, that crop is grading well. If this estimate is realized it means, in fact, the 1953 crop will be second only to last year's record crop which was 687.9 million bushels, some 40 per cent above the ten-year 1943-52 average of 423.5 million bushels. Our carryover last year was in the neighbourhood, I believe, of 362 million bushels. Assuming that the present forecast of the crop is correct, 594 million bushels, and adding the carryover, the Canadian wheat supply for this year is approximately 957 million or nearly a billion bushels. Our estimated consumption amounts to 160 million bushels. This means that the supply available for export and for carryover for this crop year adds up to the tremendous figure of 797 million bushels.

At the same time, our quota of exports has been reduced substantially today because of the attitude of Britain and India. It is down to about 170 million bushels. The Canadian quota under the international wheat agreement was set at 250 million bushels. However, due to the refusal of Britain to sign the agreement and India's reduction by one-third of its original import quota—I am glad to

say because of improved domestic prospects—our quota had to be revised under the agreement to about 170 million bushels.

Of course the situation in the United States is very much like our own. It is estimated that their crop this year is 1,132 million bushels, and their carryover 570 million bushels. This means that they have 1,700 million bushels of wheat available for all purposes, and that exceeds the 1942-43 record, when it was 1,600 million bushels. The United States requirements of 700 million bushels leaves that country with about a billion bushels available for export. Again, if you do the same thing as I have already done with regard to our quota under the international agreement, subtract Britain's purchases and the Indian reduction, the United States quota remains somewhere between 180 million and 190 million bushels.

I regret that the international wheat agreement was not made effective so far as we are concerned, because it did have the effect, in spite of any disadvantages that might be argued against it, of protecting the importing and exporting countries. It protected the importing countries from excessively high prices and the exporting countries from excessively low prices. Today, because of these vast accumulations and because the elevators are filled, we find that the farmers on the prairies are able to deliver only three bushels per acre. Consequently the need arises for an advance payment on farm-stored grain as well as a payment for farm storage. The elevator companies receive farm storage, so why should the farmers who have gone to the expense of building new granaries not receive farm storage as well?

After all, this is a great asset. The need for food in the world struggle against the threat of world communism should be evident to us all. I believe that not guns, not tanks, not atomic bombs, but rather the extent to which we can abolish misery, poverty and starvation will settle the peace of the world in the way in which it should be settled. Those are the means by which we can win this struggle against international communism. I say that with this vast accumulation, we should consider ways and means of providing food for needy countries which have not the financial facilities with which to buy it. I believe that this should be done through a world food bank, and we should urge the adoption of a policy in that regard which is suggested by the international federation of agricultural producers; that is, the United Nations should establish an agency which could do these things.

An international agency through which countries may dispose of their agricultural