

TIGHT BINDING.

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in the last war showed that on occasions there was a surplus of some kinds of foodstuff accompanied by a serious shortage of others. This could to some extent be mitigated by composite shipments so that losses incurred were not concentrated on one commodity. He understood the Chairman did not propose to raise the question of storage.

THE CHAIRMAN recalled that he had referred to this point on his observations regarding defence, and at the present stage he had nothing to add.

SIR ARCHDALE PARKHILL said that Australia would accept a scheme of full co-operation. Plans were necessary to ensure that the United Kingdom, and not the enemy, received their exportable surplus. In view of the large percentage of their exports taken by the United Kingdom, plans were also required to provide for the orderly disposal of exports under unusual conditions. The question of the prices to be paid to the producer, and by the consumer, would also arise as well as the problem of shipping. As soon as the Commonwealth Government received the detailed considerations from the United Kingdom Government, the Department of Commerce and Industries would be consulted and parallel plans would be prepared for the Australian War Book. He was sure that anything Australia could do would be done.

MR. NASH considered that the matter raised problems of wider significance than an undertaking by a Dominion to make its exportable surplus available for the United Kingdom. The question centred round

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