

continuation of rationing of the protective foods, but perhaps even to an extension of rationing to some of the other foods which have not been rationed during the war. That is not necessarily my view, but I may say I believe it is probably the correct one. I am, however, simply quoting the opinion of the interallied post-war requirements committee, as indicated in its report. That was its view, and so far I have been unable to find that anywhere provision has been made for the kind of world-wide planning of the necessary production which the committee considered essential to meet the tremendous requirements of the post-war period.

We know to-day that there are many millions of people in Europe, to say nothing of the countless millions in China and in the far east, who are starving. In our own country we have watched our supplies of certain commodities, of which we had very large quantities two years ago, diminishing to the point where it is altogether likely that by the end of this crop year a very large percentage of that great surplus of cereals which we had on hand will have entirely disappeared, either because those supplies are required for bread foods, or because they are required for the feeding of live stock.

In Europe we know that food supplies have been wiped out, and probably for some time we shall have to replace the rye bread of eastern Europe with wheat from one or another of the wheat-producing countries. Yet, as I would judge from the discussion I have heard to-day, there seems to be no plan of a world-wide sort for the building up of the required stocks of food and other supplies to meet the situation.

Before the dinner recess I was asking the parliamentary assistant about what was expected of Canada, both as a cereal-producing country and as a source of protective foods. My understanding is that while cereals can be grown more rapidly on land in Europe that has been liberated and is in process of rehabilitation, the building up of European stocks of hogs and cattle will require a very long time. While our main obligation probably is still the thing which we can do best, namely the production of cereals, yet I do not think we should allow the idea to get abroad that we should in any way reduce our output of protective foods which requires also the conservation of feed grains.

Our lack of policy illustrates what I had in mind, namely, that there seems to be no method of achieving a plan to guide the producing nations. The united nations co-operate and set up some authority to recommend and advise—I know those words are

used in the document but that is all. It seems to me that is not enough. You can recommend and you can advise—but there is no one authority which can direct. I do not know how that can be achieved under the form or organization suggested. It is my view that a great deal of consideration ought to be given to the problem. We know that the executive committee of UNRRA, if we may so describe it, consists of representatives of the major powers. But I share the view of the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid), that while perhaps we cannot expect to be on all the committees, yet Canada, as a producer of large quantities of the very things the world will need, ought to make her voice heard in a constructive manner. Otherwise when the war is over we may find that the world is short of the very essentials required to carry out the agreement which we are about to enter into, and which we are approving to-night.

As I said before, there seems to be no authority but to advise and recommend. Nowhere is there any authority—and I do not like the word “enforce”; but in this instance I shall use it—nowhere is there any authority to enforce decisions regarding the planning of production. May I repeat that I do not like the word “enforce” but for lack of a better one I use it. I should like to know what consideration was given to the points I have raised when the agreement was reached by the signatory nations.

Mr. CLAXTON: The hon. member has said that there is no authority to enforce the recommendations or decisions. In that he is quite right. It was not the plan of the united nations and the associated powers in signing this agreement to set up a world authority. I do not suppose they would have agreed to the signing of the agreement, had that been required of them. On the other hand there is ample and, I think, effective machinery provided, not only by the agreement but by the resolutions, for the assessment of requirements and to secure the allocation of supplies from the combined boards and for the purchase of supplies in so far as they are available. I refer to resolution No. 1, which sets out the procedure for dealing with requirements; resolution No. 17, which sets out the procedure dealing with supplies; resolution No. 2, which deals with the duties of the committee on supplies. Others will also be found indicating that there is ample machinery for the use of the administration.

With regard to the suggestion that Canada should have been a member of the central committee and play a rather large part in these affairs, I subscribe to the view, as hon.