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**Hon. Mr. Gardiner on Food Contracts:** Hon. James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, declared Wednesday that a very difficult financial situation has arisen in the current negotiations for the renewal of food contracts between Canada and the United Kingdom.

In a closing address, he told 200 delegates to the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference that there was a great difficulty as to what Britain is going to "use for money" if she purchases food from Canada in 1948, but added the optimistic note that he hoped the difficulty can be overcome.

And, in an apparent suggestion that the United States might help both countries, he observed that State Secretary Marshall had urged at the Big Four foreign ministers conference that Canada be given a larger place in the making of the German peace. Mr. Gardiner then added:

"I think that if other countries want to be kind to us they can buy our food and make it possible for others to buy it."

He thought, he said, that Canadians were greatly concerned that funds be provided to make it possible for Canadian farm produce to be sold on the markets available.

The uncertainty over the renewal of the British food contracts, which cover shipment of meats, cheese and poultry products, was reflected in the final actions of the conference itself.

While it normally sets food production objectives for the following year based on domestic and export needs, the meeting Wednesday merely suggested that the 1947 program be continued for 1948.

This means that wheat acreage will remain unchanged at the 1947 total of approximately 24,000,000 acres while that of the important feed grains, oats and barley, will stay at 14,310,200 and 8,000,000 acres, respectively. This also applies to output of meats, dairy products, poultry, fruits and vegetables. (CP)

**Sir Andrew Jones' Statement:** Sir Andrew Jones, head of the permanent British Food Mission here, said Wednesday that if the United Kingdom found herself driven to reducing her food imports from Canada it was only because of "dire necessity."

Addressing the closing session of the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference, he said that currency problems dominated the current negotiations for renewal of food contracts with Britain and added that if that hold could not be broken the outlook was "very unpleasant for us because we do need your food."

No government would take action which would make it "unpopular" with its own people and the British Government would be "only too glad to obtain greater supplies if it could only afford to pay for them." (CP)

**I.C.A.O. Second Assembly:** The Second Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, it is announced by Dr. Albert Roper, ICAO Secretary General. The session will begin on June 1, 1948, and is expected to last about three weeks.