

going to be picked for two weeks to be shipped to the United States? We said, "Yes." I do not know how that could be any more direct.

Mr. MacINNIS: I may be wrong, but that appears to be more direct than what the minister said a little while ago.

The second important point is that food should not be wasted. If there is any crime to-day more heinous than any other, it is the wasting of food. An appeal should be made to the parties in the dispute. We should not be hypocritical and talk about helping the starving people of Europe while we allow food to go to waste in this country.

The third important point is that we should try to find ways and means of settling this dispute. I agree with the hon. member for New Westminster when he urges that there should be more cooperation between the provincial departments of labour and the federal Department of Labour. We are not yet out of the war crisis, and the cooperation and direction which the federal Department of Labour gave during the war should be continued, at least where it can be continued with the consent and cooperation of the provincial department of labour. I believe the British Columbia department of labour is more than willing to cooperate with the federal authorities.

I hope that no effort will be spared to arrive at a settlement as quickly as possible. If it would help toward a settlement I suggest that this house go on record in the form of a definite motion asking the parties concerned to refer all matters in dispute to arbitration, the findings to be retroactive from the date the strike began, and thus start immediately saving this food and the livelihood of the farmers of British Columbia.

Mr. H. W. HERRIDGE (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few brief observations in connection with this most important matter. I first of all must congratulate the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) upon the excellent presentation he made of this subject, so important to thousands of fruit growers in British Columbia. There is one thing about the hon. member for Fraser Valley—he hits straight from the shoulder, come hell or high water.

I listened with interest also to the hon. member for Yale (Mr. Stirling), who gave a clear and factual outline of the situation in the tree fruit industry. I listened to what was said of the waste of food, which I consider a crime, and to what was said about the shortage of crates and boxes and barrels and its effect upon the livelihood of a good many people in

British Columbia. I am not going to go into all that again; I concur in what has been said. I speak not only as a member of parliament but as a fruit grower and as senior official of a fruit-growing organization representing a district of considerable size. I speak from experience. I know that at the present time there is an immense shortage of boxes and crates in the interior of British Columbia for products of the tree fruit industry. There is, I estimate, a shortage of from twelve to fifteen million such containers for the handling of this year's tree fruit crop.

I support the hon. member for Fraser Valley in his proposal that the government appoint a controller to get into operation these plants which are concerned with the manufacture of containers required in the shipping of perishable commodities. I think that is the first thing to be done.

I do not think it is necessary to have a lengthy debate on the matter. It is easy for most members to express their views in a few words. But I do wish, on behalf of the people I represent and on behalf of the tree fruit industry in the interior of British Columbia, to ask the government to give serious consideration to the proposals made by the hon. member for Fraser Valley.

Mr. E. D. FULTON (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I rise briefly to associate myself with what has already been said by other British Columbia members as to the seriousness of this situation and to urge the government to take whatever action may be necessary to settle this dispute.

I should like to emphasize its seriousness from another aspect,—not merely to be critical of the government, but because the situation is fraught with dangers other than the danger to the fruit growers, which if not tackled immediately may involve us in situations which all members would wish to avoid. I want to read a dispatch appearing in to-day's *Globe and Mail*, reporting an incident which took place at Kamloops yesterday. It is found on page 19 and reads as follows:

Kamloops, B.C. June 6 (CP).—The Canadian Legion branch here to-day announced its intention to get materials through to the veterans' home project here following the action of veterans last night when they crossed International Woodworkers of America picket lines to deliver chimney flues to the site.

Legionnaires said they had requested the union executive to release flue material to complete 30 houses of the 100-home veterans' project on the ground the material was delivered to suppliers before the strike started, and did not receive a satisfactory reply