

mill operators for higher wages, shorter hours and union security. They have shown they are not striking against the veterans by permitting lumber to pass through the picket line if used for veterans' buildings. They have shown that they are not striking against the farmers by returning to work without prejudice in the small box factory in Creston in the Kootenays, where the situation was most grave.

It has been suggested that I am over-estimating the seriousness of the shortage of berry crates and barrels in British Columbia, and particularly in the Fraser Valley. It has been suggested by certain officials here, possibly in good faith but certainly without any knowledge of the facts, that the situation is not as serious as some of us say it is. I should like to quote one or two telegrams. The last one I received over the telephone just before I came to the house to-day. These serve to strengthen the stand I am taking. The first one reads:

Lumber strike preventing Sweeney Cooperage, Vancouver, supplying sufficient barrels for raspberry crop. Krause has only 2,000 barrels on hand, needs 10,000.

I am told by some that there are containers in sufficient quantity, but here is one concern in my riding which requires 10,000 barrels and has only 2,000 on hand. Shipping of the crop is just starting. These people know what they are talking about. I have another telegram from four large shippers of berries, both co-operatives and independent. These people know their business, and this is what they say in a telegram dated June 4:

IWA strike called over two weeks ago has resulted in absolute deadlock of coöperage operations causing acute barrel shortage. These barrels absolutely necessary for packing thousands of tons berries definitely confirmed for the United Kingdom. Loss of this business through lack of barrels will cost berry growers of the Fraser Valley one million dollars. Loss to the United Kingdom food ministry cannot be considered in monetary value alone but will result in untold loss of food stocks absolutely necessary to Great Britain. Suggest every effort be made to have coöperage operations resumed to full capacity immediately pending settlement between labour unions and industry so that barrel manufacture can begin at once as every hour of delay means untold loss to the berry industry and to millions who are depending upon these food supplies.

Pacific cooperative union
Yarrow growers association
Fraser Valley growers limited
Central fruit distributors.

The British Columbia federation of agriculture wrote to me under date of May 30, and I should like to quote one paragraph as follows:

It is a hard road for the berry, tree fruit and vegetable industries of British Columbia and whether even in the event of an early settlement, growers can catch up with container needs, is doubtful.

I should like to quote briefly from the *Chilwack Progress*, probably the largest weekly newspaper in British Columbia, published in the berry growing district. In the issue of May 29 they state:

With some strawberries already being picked and the main crop expected to start appearing on the market next week, the picture looks dismal for the growers in the district if the strike tie-up continues to hold up the box factories, berry officials report.

I could go on quoting, but I just want to emphasize the seriousness of the situation. I am told by some without the necessary knowledge that there are containers on hand. I admit frankly that strawberries are being shipped out of the Fraser Valley to-day, not by the crate but in carload lots.

Then there is the raspberry crop. I have referred to there being 2,000 barrels on hand, and there is an estimated crop of 10,000 barrels. That means that we shall have to divert our raspberry crates to care for the strawberry crop.

I can quote Donald Gordon, whose name is known to a few hon. members, in confirmation of what I say, speaking under date of April 30.

We know that the government cannot do the impossible, and we cannot expect crates or barrels to be produced over-night. The farmers are reasonable and know that that cannot be done. It may not be known to some hon. members that the only farm produce that I know of in Canada which has not been allowed to maintain its market is the small fruits. We have never been allowed to ship to the United States; our fruit has been allocated to eastern markets and to Great Britain. We have no particular quarrel with that, although we want to maintain our markets.

I want to make a suggestion to the government. There is one possible way of meeting the shortage of containers now. We are in a position to sell our fruits to the United States, and they will supply the containers if we are granted an export permit. But naturally the Americans must know to-day if they can receive our fruit—I am speaking of the raspberry crop—so that they can make their arrangements to send up the containers. We have plenty of containers to-day but the officials overlook the fact that the present expectations are for a very large crop of raspberries this year. If we are to be granted an export permit to ship to the United States it must be done immediately so that the