

15. Mr. King said that it would be recalled that the provision of liaison officers had been the subject of discussion and agreement at the "Prime Ministers" meetings in London the previous spring. The functions of the Service representatives were to be confined to liaison and would not include participation in planning of any kind.

16. The Minister of National Defence observed that, for the proper performance of their duties, liaison officers would require a limited subordinate staff and a number of experts in the different lines in relation to which the United Kingdom was an important source of information to the Canadian Services. The total personnel involved would, however, be kept to the necessary minimum.

17. The Cabinet, after discussion, approved the draft instructions, as submitted by the Prime Minister, it being understood that the Minister of National Defence would limit the personnel involved to the minimum number essential for effective liaison purposes.

Coal control; revocation

18. The Minister of Reconstruction and Supply reported that ample supplies of coal were available in Canada for the present winter and submitted a recommendation to Council to provide for the abolition of control as at January 1st next.

Existing production subsidies would be maintained for the present; their administration to be taken over by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

(Minister's submission to Council, undated, (P.C. 5236).)

19. The Cabinet, after discussion, approved the Minister's recommendation and agreed that an Order in Council be passed accordingly.

Meat rationing

20. The Minister of Finance, referring to the decision taken at the meeting of October 9th, stated that in present circumstances, particularly in view of the anticipated importation of butter in order to maintain the present ration, it was deemed advisable to defer the lifting of meat rationing until about the end of March next. A postponement would also assist in maintaining supplies of bacon for the United Kingdom who were very hard pressed.

It was not felt that maintenance of rationing for a few months more would be likely to arouse any public opposition. Consideration would be given meanwhile to the abolition of meatless days and to the matter of enforcement.

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