

about eighty per cent of cereals and potatoes, though the health authorities say that a good diet should contain only about twenty-one per cent of cereals and potatoes, the rest being made up of protective foods.

If peace can be maintained with some degree of security after the war by the continued collaboration of the nations of the world it will make a great difference to the ability of many countries to grow food. For instance, many of the countries of Europe, if they were freed from war, or at any rate from the fear of war, would be able to reduce certain of their cereal crops and animal products which before the war they insisted on producing in their effort to be self-sufficient. If in the future they are not in fear of war they will cease to grow these things and buy them from countries like Canada which can produce them more cheaply, and in Europe the farmers will concentrate to a far greater degree upon the production of such things as milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables, so that their own diet will be of a greater variety. That will add greatly to the ability of the farmers of this country to continue the exports of food which they can grow. Therefore a great deal of the agricultural problem of the world depends upon the ability of the united nations to collaborate in trade agreements whereby those who can produce certain types of food shall be encouraged in such production, and whereby free trade with other countries who are producing types of food different from those produced at home will bring about better results.

It becomes very clear to all of us that if the people of the world are to be free from want, if we are to see that food is available for all, it will be necessary for us to ensure that people are in a position to buy food. That of course is the other part of the problem. There must be employment. There must be increased industrial production and there must be free international trade. We can remove the devastation of poverty and hunger from the world only if we see that certain selfish interests and political prejudices no longer are in a position to deny to the people of the world their free access to food. I think we should all back up the statement which was made a while ago by the vice president of the United States of America, Mr. Wallace. He said:

Whenever these forces, of special privilege and international monopoly are found, our job is to fight them.

For surely the winning of the peace is bound up with the regulation of food supplies to the peoples of the world.

The agricultural workers of Canada have done remarkable things during this war to increase production. I think that all of us who come from agricultural constituencies have a great deal of pride in the fact that with their limited supplies of man-power, and with women and children having to help out considerably in the fields and during harvest time, the farmers have increased the food production roughly by about forty per cent.

Farming, of course, is not like industry. It is not possible to regulate farming on such short notice. You cannot say this month that you can increase your stock or increase the production of certain farm commodities next month. All farm planning has to be of a far longer and greater range. It would seem to me that our farmers at the present time are greatly in need of more assurance from the Department of Agriculture—or perhaps I should say from the Minister of Agriculture—of the necessity for maintaining, and the possibility of increasing, or rather the necessity for increasing, food production in the future. We should have surveys made as to the types of food which will be the most cheaply produced in Canada, and therefore the foods which we should concentrate on growing when the war is over. I know that the Department of Agriculture is doing work in this connection but I still feel that there is greater need to bring this information more closely to the farmers to get them to understand. Some people are expressing fear on the question of making gifts of food after the war is over. Some farmers are even a little dubious as to whether it will be the correct thing for us to do. Here again I believe the Department of Agriculture should show to the farmers how, if the nation as a whole takes on the burden of paying for food to give to other countries, and if at the same time the farmers themselves are guaranteed a fair price, that in itself will be of the greatest good to Canada; because that increased food production with fair prices to the farmers will assure them of being able to buy many things which industry can supply. It will provide employment to the industrial sections of Canada and set a cycle for an increased standard of living throughout the whole of the country.

Generally speaking I would say one of the most important things with regard to agriculture at the present time is to insist on Canada's taking a very strong position on all the boards of the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration and in all matters pertaining to the setting up of trade relations with other food producing countries.