

quote one paragraph from Donald Gordon's letter in reply to my representations. It reads:

In view of the shortness of time remaining before berry baskets will be required in the British Columbia area, that manufacturers be permitted to sell on the basis of invoices open as to price.

I should like to repeat two things mentioned in that letter. Mr. Gordon gives as the reason for allowing a breach of the price ceiling on containers "the shortness of time remaining before berry baskets will be required in the British Columbia area." That was written on April 30, and it is now June 7. The fruit is ripe and is being shipped, and there are only a few containers available. In the next few weeks thousands of tons of fruit will ripen and there will be no containers at all. The production of containers, which began after April 30, ended completely with the general strike in the timber industry in British Columbia which began on May 17. We would have had a grave shortage even had the timber strike not occurred, because of the events I have related; but the timber strike was a calamity. The irony of it is that this year in British Columbia we are having a record fruit crop. An announcement in the Vancouver *Province* of last week stated that the Fraser Valley crop was estimated to be one-third greater than any previous crop and that employment services were trying to induce women to come from the prairie provinces to help harvest the crop. The same is true for Vancouver island and the Kootenays.

I should like to quote a telegram received from the president of the British Columbia coast growers' association, which represents all the berry growers' associations of the lower mainland and Vancouver island. It is signed also by the president of the Pacific coast poultry producers' association. In case any hon. member thinks I am speaking without authority on behalf of the berry growers of the lower mainland and Vancouver island, I should like to give a list of the associations that make up the British Columbia coast growers' association. They are as follows:

Associated Berry Growers Cooperative Exchange, Hatzic; Pacific Cooperative Union, Mission; Fraser Valley Growers Limited, Mission; Central Fruit Distributors Limited, Mission; Maple Ridge Cooperative Exchange, Haney; South Fraser Cooperative Union, New Westminster; South Port Mann Berry Growers Association, South Port Mann; Coastal Growers Cooperative Association, Richmond; Richmond Berry Growers Association, Steveston; Surrey Berry Growers Association, Surrey district; Strawberry Hill Berry Growers Association, South New Westminster; Mt. Lehman, Denison, Bradner Berry Growers Association, Mount Lehman; Yarrow Growers Cooperative [Mr. Cruickshank.]

Union, Yarrow; Dewdney Rhubarb Growers Cooperative Association, Dewdney; Saanich Fruit Growers Cooperative Association, Saanich; Gordon Head Fruit Growers Cooperative Association, Saanich; Vancouver Island Cooperative Fruit Growers Association, Saanichton.

The last three associations are on Vancouver island. I mention those associations because it has been assumed by some, perhaps with the best intentions but certainly without any knowledge or information, that we are not actually short of containers. The wires that I have quoted and those that I will quote later on show that I represent people who know the container situation in British Columbia. I am sorry to take so much time, but I think this matter is of vital importance. The telegram reads:

Berry growers and poultry men of this Fraser valley fearful of the effect shortage of berry crates and egg cases will have on their industry. On their behalf we would request your department to endeavour to bring about an early settlement of the lumber strike. Supply of crates and barrels on hand only sufficient for a few days operation and season starts in two weeks. Local associations met with union representatives to-day and try and solve our problems but additional help needed.

The only possible solution for this situation is to get the box factories going immediately on twenty-four hour production. The end of the timber strike would of course achieve this end. As I told the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) some time ago, I had a proposal which I think would end the strike. I refrained from introducing this proposal because deliberations were being carried on under Chief Justice Sloan, and I did not want to do anything that might interfere with the final solution of the strike.

I want to emphasize the fact that I am not talking about the lumber strike to-day. I am speaking on behalf of the important berry growers of the province of British Columbia, and other hon. members can speak on behalf of the tree fruit growers. I consider it my duty to bring before the house the seriousness of the situation. The only thing I want to say about the lumber strike at this time is that the loggers are not striking against the farmers and fishermen of British Columbia. They are not striking to sabotage food production in British Columbia. They are not striking to deprive veterans of lumber to build homes. They are producers just the same as the farmers and fishermen are producers. Many of them are veterans and it is not their desire to injure their fellow workers.

As I said before, I am not taking sides one way or another, I am simply pointing out what I believe to be the true facts. These men are striking against the logging and saw