

wheat should be stored and kept because it was imperishable, it would last a long time and would be ready to meet the hunger demands of the world sooner or later, before the war and after the war was over. Now then, we are all acquainted with Doctor Boyd-Orr's very interesting and very eloquent appeal made here and elsewhere, and it would look now as if the picture has changed considerably in relation to world supplies of the very things that they were being asked to produce and store for future use. For that reason I just wanted to know approximately what the world supply was now and if possible what the division of it might be between importing and exporting countries. We have in this country now considerably over one billion bushels of wheat alone in storage for our own purposes, and export purposes too.

If you take those countries that are producing wheat, Argentina, Australia, Russia, the Danubian countries, I was just wondering if the world's population is in danger of starvation now as it seemed to be when these people were promoting the cause of humanity in the early days of the war. What I am getting at is that this International Wheat Agreement I think, as I said in the house, myself, is the only way in which suppliers of wheat can attempt to rationalize the problem of supplies and demand at the present time.

It would be interesting to know in exact terms what the purpose was in relation to the joint requirements of importing countries and the available supply from exporting countries. There is nothing in this agreement to indicate what the exporting countries have to offer or what their quotas might be to meet the percentages that are cited here in connection with the importing countries.

Dr. HUDSON: Mr. Chairman, I think in terms of the situation at the present time, in total wheat production as compared with let us say the pre-war or early post-war period, there is very little change in the per capita production, because the population has been growing very rapidly in certain densely populated countries. However, what has emerged is an imbalance in terms of effective demand versus supply, which results in part from the fact that we have had the very large increase in production in certain areas of the world, particularly in North America where we have a surplus, and a deficit situation in Asia. So, on balance it would look as if there were adequate supplies, but the problem of course is marrying up the surplus in one place with the deficit of another.

Senator LAMBERT: A problem of distribution.

Dr. HUDSON: Yes, and purchasing power.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I rise to make a suggestion, largely in view of the statement made by Senator Lambert and for other reasons. I was wondering whether, now that we have the names of the various countries involved on both sides, Dr. Hudson might wish to put on the record the statement of the objectives of the agreement as contained in Article 1.

Dr. HUDSON: Mr. Chairman, the objectives of the agreement as listed under Article 1 are as follows:

- (a) to assure supplies of wheat and wheat-flour to importing countries and markets for wheat and wheat-flour to exporting countries at equitable and stable prices;
- (b) to promote the expansion of the international trade in wheat and wheat-flour and to secure the freest possible flow of this trade in the interests of both exporting and importing countries;
- (c) to overcome the serious hardship caused to producers and consumers by burdensome surpluses and critical shortages of wheat;