

Canadian representatives attached to the Combined Boards or their committees should present recommendations for relief allocations from Canada directly to the Ottawa Interdepartmental Committee concerned. In the case of military relief supplies, however, this procedure will be subject to decisions reached in Ottawa on the questions discussed in the section of this despatch which follows. These Interdepartmental Committees in Ottawa will presumably deal with such recommendations in the same way that they deal with other recommendations now being received from the Combined Boards.

In respect of commodities for which there are no Interdepartmental Committees in Ottawa, e.g. medical supplies and metal products, clearance for relief allocations made to Canada will presumably have to be obtained temporarily from an appropriate Cabinet Minister. It would seem that the appropriate Minister would be Canadian member of the C.P.R.B., the Minister of Munitions and Supply, or in certain circumstances, the Canadian member of the Combined Food Board, the Minister of Agriculture.

4. *Military relief supplies.*

These present a special problem, in so far as their distribution and financing are concerned. UNRRA supplies are planned, administered and distributed by an organization in which Canada actively participates, and to which she has agreed to contribute. Policies and Programmes regarding military relief are determined by a Combined U.K.-U.S. agency on which Canada is not represented, and the resulting supplies are distributed by the U.K. and U.S. military authorities. Any other course regarding relief distribution would be impracticable unless the Canadian military authorities were in control of a particular theatre of operations. This is unlikely. It follows, therefore, that Canada will not get from the receiving population any credit for supplies such as wheat which cannot be nationally identified by the consumers; and only partial credit for relief supplies such as farm implements which can be so identified.

In default of any special arrangements, it might appear logical to make no distinction between relief supplies and other supplies required by the military authorities. This would mean that the United States would pay for military relief supplies from Canada in the same way that she pays for nickel from Canada. It will also presumably mean that the United Kingdom will receive military relief supplies—or certainly expect to receive them—under Mutual Aid. It can be argued that the United States should not object to this, as it is merely an extension of the existing situation.

If the above analysis of the position is correct, then in discussing military relief supplies required from Canada, Canadian representatives in Washington should presumably make it plain that for the time being and until Governmental policy is clarified, Canadian allocations to military relief programmes are to be considered on the same basis as her allocations to war supply programmes generally. In other words, the United States will be expected to pay for such supplies allocated to Canada for distribution by the United States military authorities.