

hon. gentleman's conclusion are two different things.

Mr. HUGHES: My conclusion was drawn from the statement exactly as Mr. Dodge made it.

Mr. EDWARDS: Very well. We will follow the statement further and see what there is in it. In the first place, I very properly disputed his statement that Maine was the principal potato-producing state, by quoting figures to show that several states each produced more potatoes than Maine.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: Not on the same area; they are larger states.

Mr. EDWARDS: Let us look at the product in some of these states; Maine produces 23,000,000 bushels, and the average price on the 1st of December, 1912, was 55 cents per bushel; New Hampshire produced 2,380,000 bushels and the average price was 61 cents per bushel; Vermont produced 3,640,000 bushels, and the average price was 55 cents per bushel; Massachusetts produced 3,380,000 bushels, and the average price was 75 cents per bushel. I am giving these states in the first place because they lie near the province of New Brunswick, and to show that there is a production in these four states of over thirty-two and one half million bushels, and the prices show that there is a difference in price in each state, as happens all over Ontario. Potatoes may be one price in Toronto, another price in Hamilton, another price in Woodstock; there is no commodity in which there is such variation in price. If you take the states of California, Washington, and Oregon, which if this resolution carried would naturally come into competition with British Columbia, you will find that they produce 11,000,000 and 10,000,000 bushels each, respectively, or a total of thirty-one and one half million bushels. The price in Oregon was 31 cents, the price in Washington 36 cents, and the price in California 65 cents, there being a difference between California and Oregon of 34 cents per bushel in the price of potatoes. Yet, there is no duty between those two states, which shows conclusively, as all the figures with respect to the matter show, that the price of potatoes is very largely regulated by local conditions—one week a dollar a bag, next week down to 75 or 80 cents a bag, as we all know.

Then, take the states which border along Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba.

[Mr. Edwards.]

Surely those provinces should be able to produce not only enough potatoes for their own use, but potatoes for export. Those provinces, if this resolution should carry, would be thrown into competition with the border states of Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Those states produce pretty nearly 95,000,000 bushels of potatoes a year, and the price runs from 38 cents in North Dakota to 40 cents in Montana, which is the highest price per bushel in those states adjacent to the prairie provinces.

In Ontario, lying along the Great Lakes, we have the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. These states border on lake Ontario, lake Erie and lake Huron. The production of potatoes in those states could be easily marketed anywhere along the shores of those lakes; they could be sent into the Georgian bay ports, into Fort William or into any other part of Ontario. Those four states produce 124,627,000 bushels of potatoes a year, and the price ranges from 41 cents in Michigan to 58 cents in New York. It is 50 cents in Pennsylvania and 53 cents in Ohio. Again, if we take those states bordering on lake Huron, namely, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan, they produce 95,000,000 bushels of potatoes, the price ranging from 41 cents to 60 cents per bushel. It is all folly for the hon. member from Prince Edward Island (Mr. J. J. Hughes) to claim that the state of Maine is the principal potato-producing state of the Union. It is sheer folly for him to state that the United States, generally speaking, is not a potato-producing country. Let me give you the American production of potatoes for a few years, which will bear out my statement:

1907	298,000,000 bushels.
1908	278,000,000 "
1909	376,000,000 "
1910	349,000,000 "
1911	292,000,000 "
1912	420,000,000 "

You see the immense fluctuation in the production of potatoes: 292,000,000 in one year, and 420,000,000 bushels the next year. What would happen if we removed the duty and allowed these potatoes to come from the United States into Canada? When they had a large crop in the United States, they would undoubtedly swamp our market to the detriment of our farmers.

In the province of Ontario we produce an average of about 18,000,000 bushels of potatoes a year. Our production in 1911 was nearly 14,000,000 bushels. In 1912 we produced 21,000,000 bushels. Taking the