

shipbuilders of New Brunswick? No, Sir. You will not see the men from Nova Scotia coming to this Parliament and asking for assistance. They believe in standing on their own feet and their own bottom, and that is what these other shipbuilders should do. If the shipbuilders at Quebec and Kingston and Montreal cannot build ships and sell them in competition with other builders, there is only one thing for them to do, and that is to close up shop, just as my hon. friend would have to do if he was in business and had no customers. It would be regrettable, of course, if such an amiable gentleman should have to close up any business he was interested in, but if he had not any customers, I am sure he would not come to the Government and say: For God's sake, help me out of this hole for two or three or six months or longer.

Mr. MORPHY: Do I understand my hon. friend to say that the builders of wooden ships do not require any assistance and would not accept it if it was included in this proposal?

Mr. LALOR: Come across.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I must remind hon. members that the hon. member for Lunenburg has the floor, and that it is absolutely contrary to the rules of the House for other hon. members to interrupt him.

Mr. DUFF: I am very pleased to answer the question. I might say, first to my hon. friend from Haldimand that beans are very palatable when they are properly put up, and if there are no stones in them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member should not provoke interruptions, he should assist in maintaining the decorum of the House.

Mr. DUFF: The hon. member for North Perth asked me a question with respect to the building of wooden ships in Nova Scotia.

Mr. LALOR: You have enough wind; you do not need any beans.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I must once more remind hon. members that the House is not in committee, and that putting arguments in the form of questions is absolutely contrary to the rules of the House.

Mr. DUFF: Although I cannot speak for the shipbuilders of the province of Nova Scotia, I feel they are far too independent to come to this Parliament and expect the

[Mr. Duff.]

people of this country to help them carry on their business. If they cannot carry it on themselves, I believe they would willingly close up their establishments, and the men would go into some other productive industry. The shipbuilders of Nova Scotia do not want any help from this Government either in the way of a cash advance, a bonus, or endorsement of their notes by the Government.

Coming back to the Bill, I think it will be admitted by everybody that an individual who endorses a note for another party always feels that he is not entering into a proper business transaction. There are sometimes circumstances where it is necessary for an individual to endorse somebody's note, but it is usually done under pressure, or because he is in politics or for some other reason. It certainly has never been considered good business in this country or any other for a private individual or a business firm to endorse the notes of other individuals or business firms. Consequently, it cannot be good business for this Government to endorse the notes of gentlemen who are resident in other countries, or even in this country. There is another matter to which I wish to refer in this connection. The other evening in discussing this question I said that I did not think that it was necessary for the Government to endorse these notes. I felt that if this business was a bona fide one, and if these men who want the ships built were responsible parties, it should not be necessary for the Government to endorse their notes. The business can be arranged through the banks as any other business has been arranged, and I expressed myself to that effect. To-night I heard the Minister of Marine say, in answer to a question asked by the hon. member for George Etienne Cartier (Mr. Jacobs), that so far as the banking interests were concerned he did not think, from the information he had, that they would loan this money. The other evening when the resolution was before the House I asked that a certain time be given so that hon. members might make inquiries as to whether or not it was possible for the shipbuilders who were getting the contracts to arrange the financial end of the business. Of course, I cannot divulge private interviews or any conversation that occurred between me and certain persons; but I have no hesitation in making this affirmation, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, if the proper security were given by the man who wants ships in a foreign country and if the guarantee of the