

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Wind pumps. Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I have no doubt that Canada is well able to turn out wind pumps, as wind is at a premium. However, I have no reference to the Department of Agriculture.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not under fire to-day.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). If our agent drew attention to this fact in South Africa, he would find a ready sale for these articles.

Mr. BLAIN. When was this South African subsidy first granted?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The first vote was \$5,000 a couple of years ago, but that was only for the purpose of getting a ship to make an experimental voyage, and I think lumber was chiefly carried.

Mr. BLAIN. The vote is now \$146,000, and no doubt the Canadian people are anxious to get this trade if possible, but would the minister tell us why he recommended such a large expenditure and what is his anticipation of the future as to trade with South Africa.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. This is to be regarded as an experiment, of course, but it was only found possible to obtain a regular monthly steamship service by offering pretty liberal treatment. From Montreal to Cape Town the distance is 6,500 miles, and to Durban it would be 1,000 miles further. We found it almost impossible to get any single company to undertake this service, and the contract is made in a somewhat unusual fashion, the Allans, the Elder-Dempster and the Furness-Withy lines each taking one-third. I placed the contract on the Table of the House a few weeks ago giving full details. How far it will succeed I cannot say as yet, but there is a very considerable industrial development going on in South Africa, particularly in the Transvaal, and the parts adjacent, and it is hoped that we will be able to supply them not merely with a very considerable amount of coarse goods, such as lumber, but food products of various kinds, and possibly furniture and agricultural implements.

Mr. BLAIN. Who is our chief competitor there?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The United States have a pretty large trade there, and one chief reason for our establishing the service was the complaint made to us by Canadian merchants that their consignments were tossed to one side in New York, and that they had very little satisfaction in trading from that port. The various representatives of commerce throughout the country pressed on us rather

strongly to give them a Canadian line, in which case they stated a very considerable trade would be developed. It is too early yet to judge, but I think there is a fair chance that a reasonable trade will be developed; I hope a large trade ultimately. The difficulty is that there is no large return cargo, and we are obliged to allow the various ships, if they cannot obtain cargo for Canada, to go around by England or elsewhere.

Mr. BLAIN. I am informed that so far the expectation of the government has not been realized, and that the trade during the eight months has not been up to expectations.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I cannot exactly say that. I did not expect myself that it could attain full grown proportions in the course of six months. You will have to nourish these infants a little before you can expect very much out of them.

Mr. BLAIN. Is there any complaint from the shippers in respect to the freight rates?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. There was some complaints six or seven months ago, but lately I am told that the service has been more satisfactory.

Mr. BLAIN. What was the complaint?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The complaint was, in part, that the service was irregular, that they did not start on the day appointed, and that they attempted to obtain American trade in preference to Canadian.

Mr. BLAIN. Is not that the complaint at the present moment?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I am told that the present complaint has been made as to the matter of cold storage provided for in the contract; that an undue proportion of that has been assigned to American shippers. I called the attention of the various parties concerned to that, and I think if that has been the case heretofore it will be remedied now.

Mr. BLAIN. I suppose that the anticipation of the government was that there would be some fruit trade developed between South Africa and Canada?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. No, I did not expect that there would be much of that.

Mr. BLAIN. What is the cold storage for to which the hon. minister refers?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. This is for the benefit of Canadian products.

Mr. BLAIN. I understand that there is a very serious complaint from the fruit-growers of Canada that the vessels are not