

potatoes. The hon. gentleman is entirely wrong in making any such assertion.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: I did not catch what the hon. member stated in the early part of his reference to me.

Mr. EDWARDS: I understood the hon. gentleman to say that the United States could not be regarded as a potato-growing country, that the state of Maine was the principal potato-growing state of the Union and that potato-growing in the United States was practically confined to ten states.

Mr. HUGHES: I said it was not a potato-growing country outside of the ten states along the Canadian boundary line.

Mr. EDWARDS: Of which you say Maine was the most important.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes.

Mr. EDWARDS: I want to take exception to that, and I think I can prove that the statement of the hon. gentleman is not correct. The state of Maine is not by any means the principal potato-producing state in the Union. I have here the statistical abstract of the United States for 1912, and at page 146 I find that the principal potato-producing state in the Union is New York, which produces 38,000,000 bushels.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: From what is the hon. gentleman quoting?

Mr. EDWARDS: The statistical abstract of the United States for the year 1912, issued by the Department of Commerce and Labour, and the statement at page 146 is that the principal potato-producing state of the Union is New York, which produces 38,000,000 bushels, next comes Michigan with 36,750,000 bushels, next, Wisconsin with 34,920,000 bushels, next, Minnesota with 33,000,000 bushels, next, Pennsylvania with 28,885,000 bushels, next, Ohio with 20,000,000 bushels, next, Illinois with 14,000,000 bushels. To summarize, only six of the forty-eight states in the American Union produce less than one million bushels of potatoes annually, and twenty-five states of the American Union produce annually from five million bushels to thirty-eight million bushels each. The tables show a considerable fluctuation, and there is hardly any farm product that fluctuates as much as potatoes; one year a large crop, another year a small crop, as is proven conclusively, not only by the figures for the United States, but by the Canadian figures.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: What is the average production in each of the states of the American Union?

Mr. EDWARDS: I am glad the hon. gentleman asked me that question, because it enables me to tell him he was wrong in another statement he made. The hon. gentleman said that the average was somewhere around ninety bushels to the acre, but allow me to tell him that he is entirely wrong there. The average yield per acre, for all of these states in the United States, is 113 bushels per acre, and it runs up as high as 198 bushels per acre. That is entirely contrary to what the hon. gentleman said. I am not giving any guess-work about this, I have given the information and the source whence I have obtained it, which purports to be an official document issued by the United States Government. I invite my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) or anybody else to refute the figures I have given.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: As the hon. gentleman has invited me, I suppose it will be all right for me to give him my authority for the statement I have made. I have here a statement prepared by Lawrence G. Dodge, an official of the United States Department of Agriculture, on the northern potato-growing states.

Mr. EDWARDS: For what year?

Mr. HUGHES: For 1908. He gives the average per acre for all of the United States as ninety bushels; the average in the state of Maine, 177 bushels, and in Aroostook county, 225 bushels per acre.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am not questioning the hon. gentleman's statement in regard to the yield per acre in the particular county to which he refers, nor am I questioning his statement with regard to the yield in the state of Maine, but the hon. gentleman is entirely illogical in taking a few selected states along the border and giving the average for these selected states, and assuming from an examination for one year of a few selected states of the Union, a figure covering the production of the whole of the United States, and drawing from that his conclusion that the United States is not a potato-producing country.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: It is not my statement; it is the statement made by Mr. Dodge, an American Government official.

Mr. EDWARDS: The statement is made by Mr. Dodge, but the statement and the