

time to enumerate, but which would come from a more or less steady supply of ocean tonnage, somewhat commensurate with the needs of a great producing country, requiring large ocean transportation facilities.

I am sorry that the short tale I started to tell has developed into a longer tale than I had supposed it would. You turn to me and say: "That is all very good, but what does the Government propose to do?"

Mr. PUGSLEY: Hear, hear.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am simply coming to this committee, as I have come without very much encouragement on two previous occasions—

Mr. PUGSLEY: From the Government.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I came once and put a proposition before the House in an absolutely businesslike and non-partisan way and I asked my hon. friends on the other side to give us, the Government and the House, the benefit of their suggestions and their criticisms? What did I get? The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) went back to Genesis, the first chapter of it, and he detailed every book in the political bible until he came to the Apocalypse, interspersing his observations with numerous criticisms of the Government for its malfeasances and negligence. Then, I had to endure the excruciating agony of having the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) get up after that—when I was chuck full of what I had got from the hon. member for St. John—and take up the free wheat problem. He dealt with the history and conditions of the free wheat problem, from the time he started until he sat down.

It was a fine speech from his point of view, and contained many fine things, but the House had gone over that half a dozen times before and my hon. friend from Assiniboia had debated it on every imaginable opportunity which had arisen. However, I had the single solace of hearing from the hon. member for South Renfrew (Mr. Graham) who did say that when I came down with my Estimates upon that question he might be able to give me some suggestions. I hope he will, because it will relieve the monotony of desert barrenness in helpful suggestion which I have heretofore found on the other side of the House. We are, more or less, business men on each side; we have our views; I have put this discussion of the question before you, and I ask you for your views about it. If you have some further plans, bring them out. Do not be so niggardly as to keep in your back pocket everything that is useful to the country in its time of need, because you feel that you might make something out of it for yourselves ten or twelve years from to-day when you get into power. It is the duty of patriots on both sides of the House to now bring forth their talents, not to keep them hidden in their napkins, and to give us their views as to what ought to be done at this time and under these conditions. May I take my seat with the hope that hon. gentlemen opposite will not again cite Genesis, Exodus, and the Apocalypse, and that we may be spared free wheat just for this solitary occasion, and get the benefit of their experience and opinions on the subject we have been discussing.