

by this Bill that we are asked to pass to-night, we are protecting \$50,000,000 invested by shipbuilders in this country. I want to take the other side—and I think I am right in taking it—and that is, by the policy which the Government adopted in 1918, they have taken from the farm, from the fisheries, from the lumber camps and from every other industry, men who have gone into the shipyards and built ships for which the Government have supplied the money. Had that not been done, had those industries been allowed to stand on their own bottoms, if the tonnage of the world turned out to be scarce, and people wanted tonnage, orders would have come without governmental assistance, and we would not be in the position in which we find ourselves to-night. Now we are told that if we do not come to the assistance of these shipyards they will have to close down, and the men employed will be thrown out of work. Well, that condition has occurred before. It appears to me a poor argument to say that because the Government find themselves unable to borrow sufficient money to allow the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to build more ships, we should assist these private shipyards or the men will be thrown out of employment. If they were thrown out of employment it might be the best thing that could happen if they cannot keep going on their own finances and credit, for they would go into other productive industries. Personally, I do not think it would happen, because I think the men who have money invested in these shipyards would go out and get orders themselves. If some men were thrown out of employment it might be the very best thing that could happen, because they would then go into other industries and produce the products which are so much required by the people of this country and of foreign lands.

Mr. MORPHY: The other evening I asked the hon. member if he would favour the Government's policy if it included assistance in the building of wooden ships. He said he would have to consider the matter. I repeat my question now that he has had time to consider it.

Mr. DUFF: I am very pleased indeed the hon. member asked me that question. I would answer it in this way: If it is good business for the Government to embark upon the policy set forth in this Bill, would it not also be right if to-morrow morning I took into the office of the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Marine a dele-

gation of shipbuilders of wooden ships from the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. I say that the Government policy should take into consideration every branch of the shipbuilding industry. The Government has no right in formulating their policy to pick out a special class of shipbuilder, and for that reason this policy should be voted against by my hon. friends in this House. It is not right or fair for the Government to bring down to this House a proposition picking out a certain industry in Kingston, Quebec, Montreal, or Halifax, and excluding the wooden shipbuilding industries on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

Mr. MORPHY: If the Government had included assistance to wooden shipbuilders would the hon. member support this policy?

Mr. LALOR: Come on, that is the second time.

Mr. DUFF: Pork and beans make a very good meal if there are no stones in them, as the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) should know.

Mr. LALOR: Come along.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I must ask hon. members to assist the Speaker in maintaining the dignity and decorum of the House.

Mr. DUFF: In answer to my hon. friend from North Perth I want to say that the shipbuilding business in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has been in existence ever since those provinces were settled. The shipbuilders of these provinces have never asked the Government for any assistance. When the war started, and the cry for ships came from the Old Land and from the Allied countries, the people of the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick put their hands in their pockets, or they went to their bankers, and said: We are asked to build ships to help the Mother Country. Instead of going to the Government for assistance the shipbuilders of those two provinces established the industry there themselves, and built the ships that were so urgently required. I do not wish to decry any industry, but I may say to my hon. friend that the Nova Scotia shipbuilders are exactly in the same position to-day as the shipbuilders who are asking for this legislation which we are asked to pass to-night. Have we heard a cry from Macedonia, or from Nova Scotia, asking the Government to help the shipbuilders of that province? Has there been any cry from the