

sinuations, innuendoes, and allegations of one kind or another—this Government sat idly by while the freight rates on the various ocean routes were going up by leaps and bounds. Everybody knows perfectly well that it is because of the withdrawal of tonnage from the usual trade routes for the transport services

9 p.m. of the war, and because of the fiendish submarine policy of Germany, that freight rates have gone up. There were one or two sane remarks made by the hon. member from St. John, and these were in connection with shipbuilding. I do not agree with him that a great deal could be done to stimulate shipbuilding in Canada. But in connection with steel shipbuilding, we must bear in mind that so far as steel plates and ship-angles are concerned at the present time, it is a very difficult thing to get them at anything like reasonable prices owing to the large demand in other parts, and owing also to the amount of steel that is being used for munitions, and for other purposes connected with the war. But a great deal could be done immediately to stimulate the building of wooden vessels with cheap auxiliary power. On the Pacific coast, we have peculiar facilities for this class of industry. We have the timber; we have the trade waiting for ships to carry it, and if we had the tonnage we could to-day be shipping millions of feet of lumber to the markets of the world.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Hear, hear.

Mr. STEVENS: I certainly agree with my hon. friend that this is an opportune moment for dealing with the question of shipbuilding.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The hon. gentleman could not help agreeing with me.

Mr. STEVENS: I have been in favour of it for a great many months; in fact, for a number of years. I give my hon. friend credit for the few remarks which he made on that subject at the end of his long and rather rambling speech, as giving something of value.

Mr. PUGSLEY: It was only rambling in comparison with my hon. friend's excellence.

Mr. STEVENS: Then my hon. friend charged the Government with having placed on the statute-book duties which made it difficult to carry on the shipbuilding industry. Nearly all the material used in ship-

building comes in free with the exception of boilers and engines. As my hon. friend knows perfectly well, boilers and engines can be made with the greatest success in Canada.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Does my hon. friend agree with me, as all shipbuilders agree, that the very best engine that is used for auxiliary power is what is called the Deisel engine, and does he not know that that is not made in Canada?

Mr. STEVENS: Some of them are made in Canada; they are making internal combustion engines in Vancouver.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Not the Deisel engine?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes, the Deisel engine, or the ordinary internal combustion engine. I have not the slightest doubt that they can be made in Canada. However, that is a point which we could discuss in an intelligent and friendly way, and not in the hypercritical way adopted by my hon. friend. It is a question of encouraging shipbuilding and possibly of removing the duty on that class of engine, and I would like to see the Government look into that question and see whether it would be reasonable or possible to do something along that line.

Just a word or two upon the proposals of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce. He proposes to hold a convention. My hon. friend from St. John says that the minister is going to hold a huge banquet, and that certain people are going to enjoy a feast, and so on, which was an entirely unfair and improper way of referring to the suggestion of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The minister proposes to hold a convention of the leading industrial men of Canada, experts in the various industries, and nothing could be more desirable than to get together those men who are experts in their various lines. Then, some of the problems with which we are faced to-day could be intelligently discussed, and a policy looking to the best interests of the country as a whole could be mapped out. The Minister of Trade and Commerce has already sent throughout the various countries of the world commissioners to gather information and data so that our merchants, our captains of industry, our manufacturers, could have an intelligent idea of the needs of other countries. I know from my own slight experience that one of the difficulties that has faced the manufacturer in Canada has been a lack of clear, definite and accurate