

potatoes. That serves the people of Maine very well right. The growers of that state are getting a little of their own medicine, and if they had to do this over again I do not think they would take the selfish course they did last summer. However, they took it, and they are now paying the penalty as well as we are. The people of Maine will now use every possible effort to have the embargo removed as against their potatoes, and I think the same methods which will be used by the people of that state might be used by the Government of Canada to secure the removal of the embargo against New Brunswick potatoes. Therefore, the first duty of this Government is to approach the United States Government to ascertain the true situation to-day—to ascertain whether or not every province in Canada really comes under the embargo, and whether they cannot have the embargo removed as to those provinces which are not affected or about which they have no evidence of the existence of the disease; then, as to the provinces about which they claim to have evidence of the existence of disease, to see if the potatoes from those provinces cannot enter the United States under rigid inspection. If the disease exists it is necessary to take all steps to eradicate it, and I believe that the minister is giving the best advice possible to the farmers along these lines. If the disease exists it will take some time to eradicate it. But remember that every farm is not inoculated with this disease; it is only claimed that in the county of Carleton, the great potato-producing country, the disease exists in a few spots within six or eight miles from a small town. The difficulty is that the whole county is tabooed because of the existence of the disease in a few places. Then, it is only claimed that the disease has been found in one or two places in York county; in one place in Kings, twenty-five or thirty miles above St. John; in one place in Victoria; but not at all in Madawaska. It seems to me that if the United States Government are willing to allow potatoes to be sent out of the state of Maine under rigid inspection, we might arrange with them to allow us to send our potatoes under the same inspection. It is true that it means a good deal of difficulty, the appointment of inspectors and so on, and we of course would have to pay the United States inspectors; but that is a mere bagatelle in

comparison with the enormous proportions of this great industry. I can only say again that, in the first place, we must remove this duty in order to be in a position to approach the United States Government. When that is done we can ask the United States Government to allow our potatoes to pass in under the same inspection as those of the state of Maine.

My hon. friends opposite must admit that I have not approached this question from a party standpoint. I am trying to impress on the Government and the committee the enormous importance of this great industry in my constituency and province and the eastern portion of Canada. I accept the arguments put forward by the hon. member for Northumberland and the hon. member for Kings, P.E.I., as showing conclusively that the removal of this duty will not in any way hurt the Canadian producer of potatoes, while in many cases it will help the Canadian consumer.

Believing as I do in the correctness of their proposition, and knowing as I do the importance of this industry to our country, I feel that the Government can, without any degradation to itself, and without any loss of national dignity, approach the United States as with a business proposition, and see if something cannot be done to allow our people to go on, do business and prosper, as they might have done if this embargo had not been imposed upon them, and as, to some extent, they have done in the past; because we find ourselves in a very much worse position to-day than that in which we were placed before the American tariff was reduced. When the American tariff was in existence it was possible, under some circumstances, to send some potatoes over there, notwithstanding the fact that the tariff was almost prohibitive. The year 1912 was the time of the potato famine in America. We were sending potatoes from New Brunswick even into British Columbia. Shippers could pay the transportation charges from New Brunswick to British Columbia and then pay the farmer \$1.50 to \$1.75 a barrel for his product. The same famine existed in the United States, and I find from the returns that in the month of March, 1912, we sent to the United States from New Brunswick 11,000 odd bushels; in April we sent 83,000 bushels; in May, 1913, we sent 28,000 bushels, and in June, 36,000 bushels in the face of a tariff of 25 cents a bushel. This shows you that when