

say on this very important question. Now, Sir, what have we got to say in relation to this subject? We have a line of steamships to transport our apples from Halifax to ports of Great Britain subsidized: but whether it should be subsidized or not, is a matter upon which various opinions exist. If no good comes to us from these steamship subsidies then we should abolish them. That goes without saying. (Applause). Whether that extreme move should be taken, or whether there is not in the granting of the subsidy or the withholding of it, a weapon by which we can compel fair play and proper treatment in respect to transportation of the staple article which we produce in this county is a question which we should consider. (Applause). We find, it appears to me, that it is a part of the programme of the present Government to subsidise a line of steamers to go up the Bay of Fundy to the Port of St. John. Why do they send a subsidized line of vessels to that part of Canada? Is it for the benefit of the people who live in that part of the country, or is it for the benefit of those who handle shipments through that port by that subsidized company? What would be said of this subsidized line if freight from St. John on wheat over the C. P. R. was double what it was on the same commodity from the same locality of production, from Portland over the G. T. R.? What would the Government say to this? What would the people say who raised the wheat? The Government would not continue a Government if it did not listen to the voice of the people on such a matter, because the people would not tolerate its existence. Why should not the same kind of treatment be dealt out to the apple grower as is dealt out to the wheat producer? The subject needs only urging on the part of the people. If the one thing obtain in the one case, why not its counterpart obtain in the other? If it costs more to send wheat through St. John than through Portland, why should apples cost twice as much through a Nova Scotian port as through an American port? It is a principle beyond controversy that every Government has a right to so manage the affairs of the country which it governs that it shall be for the good of the people whom it governs. The cupidity of ocean steamships has always been by Governments looked after to see that the people do not suffer. In England they do not allow a steamship to be loaded down below the Plimsoll