

Department has decided, subject to the approval of Council, to act in accordance with the suggestion the hon. gentleman has made. I think it is the only sensible view to be taken. There is no reason why an officer should be put to personal expense for uniform, that is, for necessary service uniform, when he goes to the front.

Mr. PUGSLEY: There is just one other thing. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) knows that a very fine armoury has been erected in St. John. But I am told that the Department of Militia have declined to provide furniture for that armoury, and the officers have had to put their hands into their pockets to purchase the furniture necessary. I think that if the country can afford to build a magnificent armoury, it can afford to purchase the furniture reasonably required for that armoury.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: So we do.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The Department has not done it in St. John.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: I am not sure for the moment of the details as to that.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The officers have been obliged to procure furniture at their own expense.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: I understand that the money required for the purchase of the one million bags of flour may be taken out of the vote now under consideration?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am advised to that effect by the minister.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: I believe that this action on the part of the Government has met with the approval of every person in Canada. The other gifts of food products to be sent to the old land will, I am sure, also be approved by all the people of Canada. I understand that British Columbia is making a gift of one hundred thousand barrels of apples, and that the Government of Quebec contributes four million pounds of cheese. But there are other food products of this country which the Government in their judgment might, perhaps, deem it advisable to send to the old land. I understand that Germany has for many years produced immense quantities of potatoes, having a surplus which was exported as occasion arose to Great Britain or even to America. Of course, that trade is cut off entirely. In Canada we produce large quantities of potatoes. This year the prospects are that in the Maritime provinces

[Mr. Sam. Hughes.]

we shall have an abundant crop, more than we can at all use. The Province of Prince Edward Island has prospects of an immense crop of this useful article of food. I merely suggest to the Government that they might think it wise to send to Great Britain a quantity of potatoes. If prospects are realized, I believe that Prince Edward Island alone could furnish at least one million bushels. The crop in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia also being good, it is not improbable that we shall find no market for them. The crop might be rotting in the fields or in the cellars of the farmers. If people in the old land were short of food and we had an abundance on this side that did not reach them, we should have a condition of things in which something would clearly be wrong.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: We can sell potatoes in the province of Prince Edward Island at least one-third cheaper than they can be sold in any other province of the Dominion.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: I do not understand the remarks of my hon. friend. Does he wish to say anything germane to this subject or is he simply trying to be facetious and a little smart or foolish as usual?

Mr. BRADBURY: Prince Edward Island might make a gift of potatoes.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: That would be all right. I dare say the people of Prince Edward Island would be prepared to make a reasonable gift. But the quantity of potatoes we shall have to spare will be very large. And I have this to say, that if the Government take into consideration the suggestion I make, I am satisfied that they need not pay any commission for providing this article.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: I do not quite understand the joke. Is the Government paying large commissions in other places? I am quite satisfied that the traders in Prince Edward Island will give their services in this work free of charge. I can speak for myself and guarantee to supply the Government from ten thousand to twelve thousand sacks of potatoes equal to 30,000 bushels, which will not cost them one cent for my services, and I know of others who will do the same.

In connection with this, there is a matter which may be a little foreign to the terms