

Canada to save the Allied countries from starvation that the tariff should be dealt with now and farm implements admitted free. There will be no fear of a famine after the war, but there is now, and Lord Ethondda and other eminent authorities have told us they look to Canada more particularly to save the situation. After giving serious thought to the situation on the other side, it is my firm belief that the 1918 crop of Canada alone will save the war for the Allies. The food stocks of our Allies are being depleted, while the Germans in a very short time will be getting food from those countries which they have conquered. Greater production in Canada is absolutely imperative. It is not merely injudicious to postpone consideration of the tariff until after the war; it is criminal. Farm implements should be admitted free now. Twenty-two million men have been withdrawn from production and have been fighting for the last four years, and it is up to Canada to feed them. I had the pleasure a few days ago of hearing the President of the Privy Council eulogize the women of France, who have been looking after the crops ever since their husbands, sons and fathers went to the front. No one has a deeper appreciation of the virtues of the women of France than I. I knew of their virtues and admired them long before the President of the Privy Council told us of what these brave women were doing. While the men of France were fighting at the front the women of France, with an energy that seems almost incredible in the weaker sex, have been tilling the soil and keeping the life in the population of that country. As it is, France has been able to sustain her population in time of war. But we must not forget that the crop of last year, with all the skill and devotion of the women of France, was not equal to the demand. The result is that to-day France is being rationed, she is living from hand to mouth, and the people have not more than sufficient food from one day to another. This is largely due to the lack of transport chiefly from Canada. We have the food, but we have not the ships to carry it across the Atlantic. We are called upon to-day to build ships, and to build more ships.

In 1911, one of the chief policies of the great leader of the Liberal party was the creation of a naval service. It would have been of the greatest possible advantage to Canada and the British Empire if we had had the cruisers that we proposed to build

at the time of the commencement of the war, and if the mercantile marine, which would have been a result of the establishment of a naval shipbuilding industry, had been created. If that policy had been carried out, we would have been in a position not only to help ourselves but to help the Empire. During the last six years those who before the election of 1911 opposed the navy in order to please the Nationalists of Quebec, have never attempted to build a navy in Canada. From year to year the hon. Acting Minister of Finance, had been asking the Government of the day to undertake the building of ships. From year to year the members from the Maritime Provinces had been asking the Government to commence, without further delay, the construction of a mercantile marine. I had also exerted my energies in that direction. For years we had been asking the late Government to build ships. The result to-day of the inaction of the late Government is that while we have grain to send across we have no ships to carry it. We have known for the last few years that North America was the only country which could possibly help the Allies with food products. Australia is so far away that a ship sailing from that country could only make one trip while a ship sailing from the Atlantic ports of Canada to the ports of Great Britain and France could make four trips. That is one of the reasons why Australia and New Zealand has set such a fine example in supplying man-power to the Allies. If Canada had been in the same position as New Zealand and New Zealand, she could have furnished not only the force that she has sent across, but half a million more men. While I admire the patriotism and devotion of the people of Australia as evidenced by the contribution of man-power which they have made to the cause of the Empire and the Allies, and while I admire more particularly their determination to build the navy which has been created since the beginning of the war, I repeat that they are not in the position in which we find ourselves. They are not in a position to produce more than their own food requirements, because they cannot export their surplus products. They are not in a position to manufacture munitions for the Allies on account of their great distance from the scene of the conflict. They have no ships to carry munitions any more than they have ships to carry provisions. If we were to produce in Canada only what we consumed ourselves, if we were to pro-