

mind to act in the matter and to provide effective remedies in the interests of the people of Canada.

I have some figures relating to the question of the carriage of grain, and I find that the figures which were given to the House by my hon. friend from Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming) were substantially correct. I had no doubt at the time of their accuracy although they were questioned by the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg, and having looked into the matter I can now verify them. The figures show that whereas in 1920-21 we carried through Canadian ports 61,000,000 bushels as against 42,000,000 bushels shipped through American ports, in 1923, 1924 and 1925 the average was 71,000,000 bushels shipped via Canadian ports and 148,000,000 through American ports. But the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg says, "Let us take no action in this regard because, if you do, 40,000,000 or 50,000,000 bushels of Canadian grain will cease to pass through our Canadian ports." Having been fairly close to the transportation business in the United States for a number of years, I tell you that you can make up your minds that not one bushel of that American grain would travel over Canadian roads or through Canadian exits to the ocean if the United States could handle it themselves. There is a movement on foot on the other side of the line at the present time to raise hundreds of millions of dollars to create a great canal system to take their grain to Atlantic ports and thus relieve the congestion in the bottle neck of the New England railways from Buffalo on to New York and Boston. Now, we provide them with a convenience by allowing the freight to come through over our rails, and while it is true that they pay for it we can depend upon it that not one solitary bushel would pass through our gateway if they could handle it themselves in the United States at that season of the year. I am interested not only in the grain coming through from the west and the east; I am also interested in some of it going through the ports of Halifax and St. John. There is no reason why we could not mill flour in Halifax and ship it across the ocean. The rate on grain coming to Halifax is sufficiently low to allow the grain to move overseas, and if you can mill grain in Upper Canada at the head of the lakes or on the western portion of the lakes, taking it out as flour and letting it proceed at the same freight rate, why could you not mill some of that flour in Nova Scotia and ship the finished product from there?

[Mr. Foster.]

This question of by-products naturally brings me to the subject matter of the amendment. I apologize to the House if I have pursued the course of the best after-dinner speakers, who drop their subject soon after beginning and never come back to it until they conclude. But the fact is that dairy products are of vital interest to the province of Nova Scotia. Importations of eggs and butter into the local markets of that province are of very serious consequence to the farmers of the constituency I represent. A certain dairy company failed, and the farmers were importuned to put their money into the business to revive it under a farmers' co-operative organization. They went to the banks, to the old stockings and the old iron chest and brought out their money which they invested in the resuscitated concern, and now it is in the hands of the receiver and they cannot sell their products. Hon. gentlemen have spoken about eggs coming into Canada from Australia. Well, they do not all come from Australia, for whole carloads have come in from the western part of the United States, over a three-cent fence, a surplus production from the storehouses of the middle and the central west of the United States and have undersold the eggs produced in our own province. Yet hon. gentlemen talk about the prosperity of the Dominion at large.

In the very county I represent, not only are our farmers threatened, not only is the poultry business menaced, but in the face of this situation we are maintaining expensive experimental farms to teach the people to do this, that and the other thing in farming, at the same time cutting off the very thing they need most, namely, their local market. The thing they need primarily is that market, and you cannot get away from that. Why, Sir, we have in the counties that I represent a magnificent fruit area, the finest in the world, not even excepting any in the central provinces. But what do I find? A supporter of my opponent in the late election stating privately that the fruit growers and farmers were in such a difficult position financially that the local loan companies had exhausted their resources and were sending to England for funds to make further loans to them. And yet hon. gentlemen opposite talk about the prosperity wave that struck those people! We need in those counties a canning industry, we need the by-products of the mill, we need opportunity in our local markets—both there and here—to sell certain of our products, and we can only get them under protection and