

regard to ship-building. When my hon. friend intends to ask our advice, I do not know, but let me tell my hon. friend that unless this Government take hold of this important question at once and do something in a practical way for the encouragement of ship-building in Canada, they will be committing a crime against the people of this country and against the people of the Empire which no administration of the department, no matter how good that administration in other respects may be, can condone or expiate before the people. In the presence of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who would properly have this important subject in hand, I say that to-day Canadian ship-building is hampered as it should not be by the duties which this Government imposes upon engines, boilers and other machinery which enters into the building of ships. If he would remove the duties upon these articles and give reasonable assistance and encouragement to ship-building, it would not be many months before shipyards would be established in Canada, before many keels would be laid and many vessels turned out which would be an ornament to Canada and of material assistance to the Empire. I am not alone, Sir, in this demand for the encouragement of ship-building. Hon. gentlemen opposite act as if they were under the impression that no man in Canada thought that ship-building should be encouraged or undertaken in this Dominion except my unworthy self. They act as if the words which I speak are not worth listening to, and they pay no heed to what I say. Let me tell them that they will hear before long the voice of the people of Canada demanding that they should take action. There is no reason why they should not take action. I have it upon the most reliable authority that if they would give proper encouragement, steel shipbuilding would be undertaken in the province of Nova Scotia. I know that there are people interested in shipbuilding, who, if reasonable encouragement were given, and the duties on machinery taken off, would engage immediately in the building of wooden vessels furnished with auxiliary power, which would be of enormous assistance in transporting food products from Canada to the markets of the old world. Sir, this Government have done nothing, in spite of the fact that the Minister of Trade and Commerce has seen the freight rates upon our wheat, upon our cattle, upon our

[Mr. Pugsley.]

lumber and upon everything which Canada has to send to the markets of the old world going up month after month since the war began, until to-day the carriage of these products costs the producers and consumers together a thousand per cent more than it did before the war broke out. Is there not something in that state of affairs that will appeal to hon. gentlemen opposite and make them take hold of this practical question instead of devoting their attention to theoretical questions which are of no practical importance?

I apologize to you, Sir, and to the House for taking up so much time with reference to these matters, particularly at this late date in the session. As a member of this House I felt that the remarks of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce were deserving of some attention. I was not able to agree with him that the course which he outlined was one that ought to be pursued for the advancement of trade in Canada, and for the industrial development of our country. I regret to have to differ from him at this time, he made such a kindly appeal to us to work with him. I would love to work with my hon. friend. If he would only come down to us with some broad progressive policy based upon true lines of Canadian development I should be glad to work with him, but so long as he continues not to be influenced by those grand and beneficent considerations which are had in regard by men who would like to see our foreign trade developed; so long as he simply looks to the keeping of a home market; so long as he does not look abroad, particularly to that country with which we would naturally trade and with which, if proper encouragement were given, our trade, amounting to hundreds of millions, as it does to-day, would still further advance by leaps and bounds; so long as he follows these lines I regret that I am not able to agree with my hon. friend or to act with him.

Mr. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver): I would not delay the House at this late date in the session by continuing this discussion had it not been, first, for the fact that the Minister of Trade and Commerce has delivered in the House this afternoon one of the most masterly presentations of the trade problems facing Canada and the Empire that has been delivered in Canada since the outbreak of the war.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce, as on other occasions since the outbreak of the war, presented his proposals not only