

ship service. We have not enough ships to do that to-day. We cannot trade with South Africa, with Australia, with New Zealand or with India although we need, consume, and are buying, products which they produce, let alone trading also with the foreign nations of the world.

10 p.m. For these reasons I would strongly urge this House to unanimously pass the second reading of this Bill.

It is a pleasure indeed to see hon. gentlemen stand up like the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Vien) and the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau), lay aside their politics, lay aside all party considerations, and look at this question from a purely Canadian point of view.

Mr. W. D. EULER (North Waterloo): Unlike the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Vien) I have no special knowledge of the shipbuilding industry. I would approach the question from one point of view. I am not prepared to go into the details of the proposition, but I would view it entirely from one standpoint, and it is this: If this country is prepared to adopt the principle that any private individual or any industry in particular can come to this Parliament for the purpose of having the Government of Canada endorse its notes and business proposals I see no reason why every other industry in Canada cannot do the same thing. The argument which has been made, and well made from his point of view, by the hon. member for Lotbinière might as well be made for any other industry in Canada. I see no distinction and the argument falls to the ground unless hon. gentlemen on the other side or those who, on this side, are in favour of the proposition, can show to me that the commercial life of Canada is vitally affected by this particular industry, or unless they are willing to accept and follow the principle which they have enunciated in the interest of one industry and apply it to all other industries. I think that is absolutely sound.

The argument has been advanced that assistance should be given to the shipbuilding industry in this way in order that some 20,000 or 23,000 men may be continued in their employment. The very same argument would apply to men employed in other industries. For example, we will say that in the city of Kitchener, which is a very busy industrial centre, the furniture industry finds it rather hard sledding. We have some eighteen or twenty factories and they find it difficult to keep their factories go-

[Mr. Keefer.]

ing and their men employed. A deputation representing these factories comes down here and asks the Government to assist them to develop an export business and for that purpose to extend to them the credit of the country. These men would never think of doing such a thing and this Parliament would never think of granting the request. But the shipbuilders come to this Parliament and ask for the credit of the Dominion in carrying on their private enterprise. If it is granted that the shipbuilders are entitled to this consideration then any other industry is entitled to come to Parliament and receive the same assistance. It has also been said that this is necessary in order to save the industry itself. Well, I do not believe in that argument, because the probabilities are that the industry will have to be saved over and over again. It will not be the last time probably that they will make a request to the Government for assistance; and once the Government has taken this step I do not see how it can logically refuse to take the second step, and the third step,—and follow it up by giving the same sort of assistance to anybody else who may choose to come here and ask for it.

We had the same argument advanced in regard to loans to foreign countries. We had one example in particular which impressed itself upon my mind at the time,—the guaranteeing of something like \$7,000,000 of contracts for the sale of meat to Italy. The argument had previously been put forward on behalf of the Government that those credits were extended in order that industry in this country might be assisted and working men be given employment. But that argument could not possibly apply in the case of the meat sold to Italy. As a matter of fact \$7,000,000 of the credit of the Dominion was given entirely on behalf of perhaps one man alone. The people of Canada did not gain; but they may lose in so far as the national credit is pledged. As to Roumania, we know to-day that by the credit given certain manufacturers, this country may lose all the money that has been advanced. At least, we know now, that not even the interest has ever been paid on the Roumanian loan.

The statement has been made that this course should be taken in order to assist in restoring the balance of exchange. Well, that argument holds good for any other industry you might choose to name. And I am on my feet to simply register my protest against the Government adopting the principle of assisting with its credit the