

from the United States into Canada free of duty, the result would be that farmers would double and treble and quadruple their production in the province of New Brunswick because when potatoes are worth \$3 or \$4 per barrel in the United States the price in New Brunswick is less than that by the amount of the American duty.

Mr. CROTHERS: How much a barrel were they this winter?

Mr. PUGSLEY: My hon. friend knows they are getting a high price.

Mr. CROTHERS: How much? \$8.50 a barrel.

Mr. PUGSLEY: But that has not always been so. Two years ago the farmers were glad to sell potatoes in New Brunswick at 40 cents a bushel. But if they had a larger market they would be in the same position as the producer of wheat with a larger market. It would encourage increased production and add enormously to the prosperity of the farmers, even although the price of the product should not be materially increased.

With regard to ships, I say that this Government, so far as the question of transportation is concerned, have absolutely fallen down in the discharge of their 10 p.m. duty. This war has been in progress since August, 1914, well on to three years. Surely this Government ought to have recognized that the result of the great European war would be a greater demand for vessels. They ought to have realized that there would be the submarine warfare, that the shipping of Great Britain and her Allies would be imperilled and that there would so be a greater demand for new shipping. In Canada we have magnificent opportunities for shipbuilding. I remember, when I was a comparatively young man, when in the province of New Brunswick there were dozens of shipyards turning out magnificent wooden ships which sailed upon every sea and carried the fame and reputation of our province to all parts of the world. There are splendid opportunities for shipbuilding. But this Government took no steps to encourage the building of ships. Over and over again I and other members of this House have appealed to the Government to do something, to give bonuses, or to themselves engage in shipbuilding, for the people of this country.

Mr. LALOR: Did your Government do anything for shipbuilding along these lines?

Mr. PUGSLEY: Fortunately our Government did not hold the reins of power during a great European war. The conditions have changed materially, and I say that any men managing the affairs of this country with reasonable foresight must have known that there would happen the very thing that has happened to-day, when the British Government is begging for ships. Has my hon. friend read the report of the interview with Mr. Balfour only a few days ago in which he implored the Government of the United States to send all the ships they could, wooden vessels, cruisers, destroyers, even tug boats, to put them in the service of the Empire and their Allies in order to try and overcome the German submarine menace? What did the United States do? Within a week after the declaration of war the United States gave an order for one thousand wooden vessels, appropriating \$50,000,000 for the purpose of providing one thousand wooden ships to be built upon both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts for the service of the Allies in this war. In the face of this splendid work on the part of the United States, this Government stands in a deplorable condition. Canada has done absolutely nothing. Was it because this Government in 1913 was informed by Mr. Winston Churchill that to build ships of any size you must have a firm foundation on which to lay the keels, and that it would be a very difficult task for Canada to engage in the building of large ships? Or was it because in 1911 the Nationalist allies of this Government in the province of Quebec declared that they would oppose to the last the building of a Canadian navy? Was that the reason of it? Is that the reason why this Government has taken from that time to this no step of any kind or description for the establishment of ship yards in Canada and the building of ships? We want ships to carry the products of Canada across the ocean to serve the Allies in this hour of tremendous need, because the products on this side of the ocean are required perhaps more than anything else. It is the danger of starvation which is facing Italy and France, and to a certain extent England, which is awakening the strongest feeling of apprehension on the part of the Allied Governments. And that is why they rejoice so greatly that the United States has come into this war, because she will be able to furnish ships, she will be able to give increased means of transportation, and in that way to do enormous service to the Allies. This