

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: We are making stoves in Nova Scotia and selling them in British Columbia.

Mr. CURRIE: That is very lately.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No, long years ago.

Mr. CURRIE: Only a few years. Most of the hardware has been made outside of Nova Scotia. It is only within a few years that there was such a thing as a slide rule in Nova Scotia. The educational system was along the line of the classics—Greek and Latin—and it was only when the industries were started at Amherst and Sydney that they began manufacturing hardware products. Then, to-day, we have the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair) talking free trade in ships; and it is argued that the cost of ships is cheaper in England than in any other place in the world. That has been due to the fact that skilled mechanics in England and Scotland got such low wages. But that condition has changed and shipbuilding will never be carried on in any part of the world as cheaply as it has been in the past. There is no merit in low wages, and there is no merit in producing goods at a loss. The only thing that there is merit in is making a profit. What benefit is it to a man if he does not get a profit out of his employment?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Do I understand my hon. friend to say that each country should manufacture within itself everything that it consumes?

Mr. CURRIE: That is a very primary question in political economy and every one in the lower grade—

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Answer.

Mr. CURRIE: A student in the lower grade of political economy would know that.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: What is my hon. friend's answer?

Mr. CURRIE: There is a certain country to-day that is carrying on a great war and that is Germany—

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Answer the question.

Mr. CURRIE: It is manufacturing and doing all its own business within its own borders at the present time, and it still seems to be getting along famously with it. If we were to purchase less from abroad and if we did not purchase unnecessary

things in the United States our credit might be better than it is to-day.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Does the hon. gentleman think the Germans are getting on better than Great Britain is?

Mr. CURRIE: Being a loyal British subject the hon. gentleman would not expect any answer from me to that question, but what I do say is that that country is not getting along better.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Would the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Rainville): I would request the hon. gentleman (Mr. Currie) to come back to the question of ship-building.

Mr. CURRIE: This is just a little digression. Hon. gentleman have been making political speeches all afternoon.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I am correct then, am I not, in the understanding that it is the hon. gentleman's view that Canada and all the countries of the world should manufacture for themselves everything they require and that being the case there would be no need of shipping.

Mr. CURRIE: The hon. gentleman is endeavouring to put an answer into my mouth which, he knows very well, I did not give, because it is our business and should be our business as a country which is undertaking great expenditures in this war to sell and export as much as possible and to buy as little as possible from other countries if we are going to pay our debts. That is an answer which my hon. friend might sleep over and figure out the meaning of in the morning.

Now, to come back to the question of ships; the time of the House was spent idly this afternoon in discussing the question of expanding the shipbuilding industry. The Government has done wonders. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) has assisted in placing contracts in every shipbuilding yard that is available in this country. To-day you cannot find ten feet of yard space that is not employed. Every machine shop, every engine-building concern, is filled with contracts for marine engines. So far as the policy of this Government in purchasing and having built wooden ships is concerned, I think it is a most excellent policy, and that the people of this country would justify the Government in building not only two ships but twenty, because they will be needed. Twenty wooden ships would