

into the pockets of the manufacturers. So that \$6,000,000 is a very small sum compared with other expenditures that are made.

Another thing I could hardly understand as being consistent was the assertion of the hon. member for Lunenburg that as a result of the duties on fish many of his people were going out of business, coupled with the later statement that sixteen new schooners were being built, not for the races but to engage in the fishing industry. Wise and intelligent men will not make the necessary expenditure to the building of sixteen schooners for the purpose of engaging in a trade that is declining. My hon. friend, therefore, is hardly consistent in his remarks respecting the fishing industry.

I am reminded that the three previous speakers from Nova Scotia who have addressed the House have spoken about the "tale of woe" of hon. members on this side. I ask, has any hon. member in this House ever heard a greater tale of woe from any province than we have heard from Nova Scotia? If he has, I have yet to hear it. In that connection I am reminded of the formula of Dr. Coué, which I might paraphrase thus: "Day by day and in every way we are putting more things before you," and if there is an effort to effect a remedy analogous to that which is supposed to be effected in the human body by the application of that formula, it may be that in the body politic we shall get a feeling of health and strength so far as the Canadian West is concerned.

Mr. MARTELL: May I ask a question? Last year you got certain reductions in railway rates. What did we get in the Maritimes? How much have you in the West paid for the building up of Canada?

Mr. LEWIS: I am quite well aware of those reductions and we are thankful to the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Duff) who brought in that report. We do not say a word against that; we consider it our due; and the very fact that the Crowsnest pass agreement was suspended for a number of years was due to our patriotic effort to help Canada in the past. But now, when the same conditions no longer prevail, there is no reason why we should not go back to the agreement we had before the war.

There are a few criticisms I wish to answer. So far as redistribution is concerned, my sympathy goes out to the hon. member for Hants who mentioned it, because possibly his own constituency will be amalgamated. That seems to be inevitable as a result of the numbers of people leaving the province of Nova Scotia. It does seem rather hard that a province that entered into confederation should

[Mr. Lewis.]

find its population decreasing day by day, and that it should have its representation in parliament reduced. I for one would be glad to see Nova Scotia placed on the same plane as the province of Quebec in that regard, because it does seem to me that the Maritime provinces, so far separated from us, should not be denied a voice and proper representation in this Dominion parliament. So I will be willing to support the hon. member in that respect.

He mentioned another matter on which I cannot altogether agree with him. He said that the West should remember the Maritime provinces, because the people from those provinces had borne the burden and heat of the day. It seems to me that we also are to-day bearing the burden and heat of the day, and in some cases it has been too much for the frail body of humanity, with the result that large numbers of them are getting out.

The hon. member for Cape Breton South and Richmond (Mr. Carroll) in his speech yesterday referred to a letter that was written to the Scotsman, of Edinburgh, and he took it in absolute sense. I fail to find that it speaks of "all the farmers" or "every farmer", but only "the farmers," and so for that reason I think he was speaking generally, and not in an absolute sense. He was speaking of conditions generally as he knew them, and although my hon. friend contradicted the information in that letter, he will find on referring to Hansard that the previous speaker gave it correctly. It was to this effect, that he knew farmers in western Canada who were just as comfortably situated as the capitalists in Montreal or Toronto. I have had the pleasure of visiting some of these western homes. I have lived in the West for twenty years. I was a missionary out there eighty miles from the railways, and I visited hundreds and thousands of homes, and I want to say that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it would take the average farmer ten years to furnish even one of the rooms that you find in the palatial homes of eastern Canada, and as for the Canadian farmer living in the same comfortable circumstances as the capitalist in Montreal or Toronto—why, it is simply absurd. It seems to me that the man who made that statement knows absolutely nothing about western conditions.

The hon. member for Lunenburg also spoke of the Hudson Bay railway. He may have spent a day or two up around the bay, but I would point out that the two commissions that were appointed by this Dominion parliament have reported that the route is navigable for at least three or four or five months