

not taken a forward step in the direction of securing for this country this great industry which we are so well able to take care of.

Mr. FIELDING. The question of an export duty on pulp wood is a very large question. I would not care to enter into it now, nor is it necessarily connected with this item. I agree with the hon. gentleman that if there is anything which we ought to be able to make successfully in Canada it is paper, and that is one of the best reasons why we should be able to make this class of goods with a moderate tariff instead of having an excessive tariff. But, my hon. friend has overlooked the rather important point that we had a paper combine alleged to exist in Canada, and one of the few cases in which we have felt able to take up seriously the question of combination under the clause in our tariff—in fact it was the only case—was this one. A commission was appointed to inquire into the existence of an alleged paper combine and the report of the commissioner was that a combine did exist. The government found that the duty that existed under the Canadian tariff was one of the instruments which enabled the combine to charge an excessive price and thereupon, in accordance with the provisions of the statutes, we reduced the duty to 15 per cent. I am afraid the proposal of my hon. friend that we should increase the duty on printing paper is one that all sections of the community would hardly be disposed to approve of, because I do not think that in making that request the public opinion of the country would be with him.

Mr. SPROULE. Why did you adopt that method instead of availing yourself of the provisions of the criminal law?

Mr. FIELDING. Because my hon. friend is well aware from a dozen debates in this House that the administration of the criminal law belongs to the attorney generals of the different provinces and not to us.

Mr. SPROULE. And you could neither enforce it yourselves nor get the provinces to enforce it?

Mr. FIELDING. It is not our business to get the provinces to enforce it. There would be nothing to prevent any citizen of Canada enforcing it because one of the great advantages of the criminal law is that any individual can go into court and if he can produce sufficient evidence to make out a case he can put the criminal law in operation.

Mr. SPROULE. Well then it would be an easy matter for the government to put up one of their own friends to do it if they desired to do it and if they were prepared to pay the expense.

Mr. FIELDING. Considering that when we do make an attempt to proceed against combines and reduce the duty we are at-

tacked on the other side of the House and asked to put it back again my hon. friend is certainly very unreasonable.

Mr. SPROULE. Not at all. I am only asking if you can accomplish the same thing by other means and keep paper down to its normal and actual price, would it not be a better plan to do that and at the same time keep up the duty against the Americans?

Mr. FIELDING. No, because if you put all the paper makers of the country in the penitentiary that would not affect the price of paper and what the printers wanted was a reduction in the price of paper. That was brought about by our method and it would not have been brought about by the method that the hon. gentleman suggests.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not know. The hon. minister says that the paper was too dear because of the existence of a combine. If you punish those who enter into that combine the price of paper would be cheaper.

Mr. FIELDING. The only way you could stop them would be to put them in jail.

Mr. SPROULE. Would not paper be cheaper?

Mr. FIELDING. No, that would not reduce the price.

Mr. SPROULE. You can by putting the criminal law into operation stop a great deal of vice and crime. You can very well punish a combine sufficiently to stop it and if you stop it do you not reduce the price of paper?

Mr. FIELDING. You do not stop the combine. You simply put a few men in prison but the price goes on all the same.

Mr. SPROULE. Not at all. Suppose there are five manufacturers in this country who are manufacturing paper, who by reason of a combine raise the price of paper, cannot you make the penalty high enough to compel them to refrain from combining? If you do that you succeed in putting the price down to its natural level?

Mr. PERLEY. The minister has suggested that I objected to the method of dealing with this paper combine. I am just as much opposed to a combine as the minister is, but I would like to see the government bring about or accomplish that end in a spirit of fair play between the United States and Canada regarding this matter of pulp and paper. One of the ways to accomplish that is to make it hard for the Americans to send their goods into this country. If the Canadian government cannot see its way to put an export duty on pulp wood, surely they can find some other method by which we can get fair play. It is not fair for the minister to suggest that we on this side of the House would like to see this combine keep up the prices. The point we