

Mr. CLANCY. What information has the hon. gentleman that it goes into the United States free of duty?

Mr. STEPHENS. I looked up the Act some years ago, if I remember that is the class.

Mr. BLAIN. Did I understand the hon. member for Brant to say that all the binder twine manufactured in Canada in which there is no manilla can enter the United States free of duty?

Mr. HEYD. That is my impression.

Mr. BLAIN. Does the hon. gentleman state that as a fact?

Mr. HEYD. I think so.

Mr. BLAIN. You do not know.

Mr. HEYD. It is easy to find out; we can get the United States tariff.

Mr. BLAIN. I thought that if the hon. gentleman was informing the committee possibly he would know himself.

Mr. HENDERSON. The binder twine question is one that deserves the very greatest consideration. It is a well known fact, admitted by the Minister of Trade and Commerce to-day, that Canada makes more twine than can be sold in Canada. For years twine made in Canada has been to the United States, notwithstanding the fact that there is an open market for it in Canada. On the other hand, we import immense quantities of twine from the United States. We consume in all about 28,000,000 pounds of twine, of which about one-half is American and the other half Canadian. So far as we can gather, there is a high combination in the manufacture and sale of twine, in which the American manufacturers predominate. They seem willing to give the Canadian manufacturers one-half of the Canadian market provided the American manufacturers fix the price; and that is the reason we are to-day paying the enormous price we are for twine. I apprehend that the Peterborough manufacturer for whose purpose this clause has been introduced, to enable him to get rid of his twine in the United States, is not allowed to say at what price he will sell his twine in Canada. It must be sold at the price fixed by the American combine. The dealer in twine in an ordinary country village does not fix the price of his twine. The price is dictated to him by the American trust, even if he buys from a Canadian dealer. I do not feel like making it any easier for these people to carry on their operations. The farmers are fleeced every year by being compelled to pay three, four or five cents a pound more for their twine than they ought to pay. The whole thing is the result of the change that took

Mr. STEPHENS.

place on the 1st of January, 1898, when twine was put upon the free list. Had we maintained a good round duty on twine, sufficient to protect the market of this country for the Canadian manufacturer, we should have had all our twine made in Canada and sold to the farmers of this country on fair terms and at fair prices, and this American combination would not have had the power to interfere with us as they have been doing during the past two or three years. Our government, while exercising this paternal care over the binder twine industry, insisting that the measurements shall be right and that the name of the manufacturer shall be put on the tag, should institute an inquiry into the whole matter, and find out why it is being sold at three, four or five cents more than it is worth, and why the American manufacturer is allowed to fix the price of every pound of twine sold in this country.

Mr. WRIGHT. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Do I understand him to say that the retailer has the price fixed by the manufacturer?

Mr. HENDERSON. Yes.

Mr. WRIGHT. No. I am in the trade, and I know.

Mr. HENDERSON. The hon. gentleman's price is fixed for him, and if he does not sell it at that price, he gets no more twine.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. As a matter of fact, that is not true. I sell twine also.

Mr. HENDERSON. All right; the hon. gentlemen can do it this year, but wait until next year. I admit that they can sell it this year. When they buy twine, they can sell it at what price they choose; but let them wait until next year and see whether they will sell any twine then or not. This is something the government should investigate. There is no reason why, when we consume 28,000,000 pounds of twine in Canada, our manufacturers should come to parliament and get legislation to enable them to ship their surplus to the United States to find a market when there is a large market in Canada for all they make.

Mr. CLARKE. What percentage of the twine used in Canada is made in Canada?

Mr. HENDERSON. Fifty per cent in round numbers. Our manufacturers seem to be allowed to sell only that much, and if they do not agree to that, the American manufacturers are sufficiently strong to crush them out of the market. If our manufacturers did not submit to these tyrannical measures, there would not be a pound of twine manufactured in Canada in three years. So the government have something more to do than simply to fix the length of a pound of twine and to require the name of the manufacturer to be put on the