

not going to have any compensating advantages. And after all does it make much difference, so far as dollars and cents are concerned, whether you tax the people by way of specific duties or whether you tax them by paying bounties out of the treasury of the Dominion.

Let me turn to the other side, which is the most deplorable, and that is that we have struck the iron industry a fatal blow. If there is any pledge which hon. gentlemen opposite have kept in a substantial manner, it is their pledge to knife the National Policy in every way possible. They may not have gone a great way, considering the great number of items, but they have gone far enough to affect the industries of this country, and we are told that this is only an instalment. What is the state of things in the country to-day? We have the most explicit declaration of hon. gentlemen opposite that this is only an instalment. One hon. gentleman after another rises on that side and says he is not quite satisfied but is promised that this is only the first blow and that the others are coming soon. I would like to ask what the impression must be in this country under such a state of things? Who is going to invest his money in the country? Where is the possibility of people manufacturing and giving labour to our people and thus affording a solution to that question the most dangerous of all questions, that is growing up not only in this but in other countries. One of the great difficulties has been the labour question, and in times of depression that is a most disturbing element. It seems to me that the plain solution of the labour question, the plain manner of dealing with what seems to be a false notion of hostility between labour and capital, is simply this. You find a day's work for every man in the country at some price, I care not how much, how large or small it is, and there you have a solution of the question which is without doubt a leading one and a real solution of a difficulty of that kind.

Another question is that of binder twine. I am pretty sure that in the province of Ontario, or in any other province, no one will think that the taking off a duty of 12½ per cent and making it free, will make the least difference to the farmers. Any person who takes the trouble to look at the returns of imports, will see that the small sum of \$19,000 has been paid into the treasury of Canada in duties on imported twine. This importation is mainly in one province, and it is imported, not because binder twine is cheaper in the United States than here, but simply because the twine mills in the United States are nearer to some parts of our country than are the twine mills in Canada. It is simply a question of freights and not of duties. Hon. gentlemen opposite will not admit, although it is the fact, that this binder twine question is only one of the little shams with

which they have tried to humbug the people. But I will give some evidence on the subject which hon. gentlemen on this side may not value very highly, but which hon. gentlemen opposite will no doubt receive as authoritative. I have here the statement of Mr. Noxon, who, I believe, is chief inquisitor for hon. gentlemen opposite, who, though in the pay of the province of Ontario, is the henchman of gentlemen opposite to coerce and harass the officials of the Dominion. He will furnish a conviction in any case in which it is desired. This will not detract from the weight of his evidence in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite. He was examined before the Public Accounts Committee of the Ontario legislature two or three years ago with regard to binder twine, after the establishment of the industry in the Central Prison at Toronto. This is what he said with regard to twine:

Q. Will other manufacturers, this year, sell at less than they did last year?—A. I think so.

Q. Will they undersell it?—A. I don't think so.

Q. Have you seen any prices quoted?—A. Yes.

Q. Where?—A. I have seen the prices of American manufacturers.

And, later on, he says:

Q. And you say you will be able to produce for half a cent less a pound this year than last?—A. Fully that.

Q. According to that, you will still be able to compete with the lowest quotation you have for this year, this at 7¼ before the duty is paid from the American side?—A. Certainly.

Q. And you will be still in a position to offer to the farmers of this country pure manilla twine equal to any on the market, so far as present quotations go, as cheap, or cheaper, than any other?—A. Yes.

An hon. MEMBER. Where is the twine made?

Mr. CLANCY. In the Central Prison, at Toronto. Now, Mr. Noxon was the inspector; was, in fact, the manager of that department, and in this statement he was defending the institution and defending his own conduct. He gave this as evidence that twine was being produced in the Central prison with prison labour—which is dearer than free labour—and we have Mr. Noxon's evidence to the effect that twine was as cheap or cheaper than elsewhere. I am not sure but that Mr. Noxon was right in that. No doubt a good quality of twine was produced there, and I think that at Kingston a good quality is produced. I regret that the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) is not present, for I would like to call his attention to these points. But what I wish mainly to point out is that taking off the duty on binder twine is really not a relief to the public and that the pretense that it is so is only a sham.

But these are the small things that hon. gentlemen opposite went to the country with in order to raise a party cry. They went through the country with a coal oil can in one hand and a pound of rice in the