

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. To go to the several factories at which twine is manufactured, and also to inspect from time to time the larger wholesale and retail establishments in which twine is sold. If he discovers any defalcation, he has to report and endeavour to have the party fined.

Mr. BLAIN. Seventy-five per cent of the twine now consumed in Canada is manufactured in the United States. Has the inspector anything to do with that twine?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. His instructions are to ascertain whether the twine sold conforms with the provisions of the statute.

Mr. BLAIN. There was a time in the history of Canada when a large proportion of the twine consumed in Canada was manufactured in this country, but at the present time, since the free trade policy adopted by my hon. friend, 75 per cent of the twine used in Canada has been manufactured in the United States.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I am not prepared to say what the proportion is.

Mr. BLAIN. That statement was made in the House, and I think it is within the mark. What I do not understand is that when there was a very large quantity of twine manufactured in Canada the government did not see fit to appoint an inspector, but now, when a much smaller quantity is manufactured, they think it necessary to have an inspector.

Mr. HENDERSON. I do not think it makes much difference whether we have an inspector or not. The idea of appointing one man to inspect all the binder twine used in Canada is utterly ridiculous; he cannot examine the thousandth part of it. I am inclined to think, with my hon. friend from Leeds, that the object has been a good deal more to find a position for Mr. Haycock than for any good he is likely to accomplish. I am sure that all the balls of binder twine he will examine will not return very much profit to the farmers of this country. You would require to have fifty men, if you are going properly to inspect the binder twine used by the people of this country. Then, what is going to become of the twine that Mr. Haycock inspects? A man cannot inspect a ball of twine without destroying it. Is the government going to pay the manufacturers or the agents whose twine is examined, for the loss they have sustained by reason of the inspection? Because, when a ball of twine is once unwound, I rather think it will not accomplish the purpose for which it was made. I have heard it said that Mr. Haycock has some instrument by which he can rewind the twine, but I think he will not be able to do it in that scientific way required to make it run freely off the binder. There will be a con-

siderable sum required to compensate the binder twine men for the twine lost in this way, and the minister had better put it in supplementary estimates.

Mr. WILSON. What particular qualifications has Mr. Haycock for this position? I did not think that a market gardener was specially qualified to inspect binder twine. I presume that the reason Mr. Haycock got the appointment was because of the good he did the government in stumping the various counties for them. He stumped mine, but I do not think he did any harm, because he is too well known in that part of the country. I remember the Minister of Trade and Commerce once writing a letter in which he claimed that the Patron platform was the policy of the Liberal party, and economy was then a prominent plank in that Patron platform. I do not know what economy there is in appointing a man as inspector of binder twine because he posed at a Patron, and at the same time stumped for the Liberals.

Mr. BLAIN. We would like the hon. minister to make a statement of the qualifications of Mr. Haycock for this appointment.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. If the hon. gentleman has met Mr. Haycock, on the stump or anywhere, I think he will substantiate my statement that Mr. Haycock is a man of very decided intelligence.

Mr. CLARKE. He has made a very bad use of it.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I have known men of intelligence in very high positions who have put their intelligence to a very bad use—not meaning anything personal to my hon. friend.

Mr. BLAIN. I did not understand that it was one of the necessary qualifications of a binder twine inspector that he should be a good stump speaker. I might remind the hon. minister that there is a very large number yet to be provided for. For myself, I wish to enter a protest against this expenditure, and I think I shall move to strike out the vote. As I understand the law respecting the manufacture of binder twine, it provides that each binder twine manufacturer must put a tag upon each ball, stating the number of feet per pound in the ball. If that is true, what is the necessity of having an inspector?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Sometimes they make mistakes, and do not give the requisite number.

Mr. BLAIN. This gentleman was appointed last June. There has been a very large amount of twine manufactured since then, and I suppose the officer has made some report to the department as to the duties he has performed—whether he has found that any of the twine manufacturers