

Inspection of binder twine, \$2,500.

Mr. TAYLOR. Will the minister explain why he appointed an inspector of binder twine ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Various complaints have been made to us by farmers and others that the binder twine was not up to the requirements, and we thought it expedient to make sure that the farmers' interests were duly protected, and we appointed an inspector at a salary of \$1,200.

Mr. TAYLOR. How can an inspector inspect a lot of binder twine ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Probably in the same way as you would inspect barrels of apples, by taking samples and seeing that they correspond with the requirements of the law.

Mr. TAYLOR. How will he do it—by taking samples ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Each parcel of binder twine is supposed to contain a certain number of yards and, I think, a certain weight, and he can inspect a number of these parcels in the factories, and if he finds that on the average they are correct, he would be justified in assuming that the remainder are good. If he found there was a deficiency in any considerable number of these he would be justified in so reporting, and have the parties fined. There is a statute providing penalties in the event of binder twine being deficient in quantity or quality.

Mr. HENDERSON. I do not think it applies to the quality, but only to the quantity. The statute provides that there must be a tag on each ball showing the number of feet per pound, and I apprehend that this inspector's duties would be to see that it contained the proper length.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. He will see that the statute is complied with.

Mr. HENDERSON. Will that apply to American twine as well as Canadian ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. My instructions to him were to see that the American twine came up to the standard represented.

Mr. HENDERSON. The importer is liable if the statute is not complied with.

Mr. ROBINSON (Elgin). Has the inspector been inspecting binder twine this season ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes.

Mr. ROBINSON (Elgin). Has he reported to you ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

Mr. ROBINSON (Elgin). Did he find any delinquents ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. He reported to me that as a rule the results have been satisfactory. I think they are allowed a deficiency of five per cent, but if it is more than five per cent, they are liable to be fined. His report is that the majority of the manufacturers have complied with the law.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister might just as well admit that this was done for the purpose of giving a job to Mr. Joseph Haycock, who was the leading Patron element in helping the Liberals in the elections of 1896, and who deserved something at their hands. Mr. Haycock had to be provided for, and so they appointed him inspector of binder twine, something that there is no more use for than there is for appointing an inspector of mosquitoes. If he wants to inspect a ball of twine he has to unravel it, and that spoils the ball and the government will have to pay for it. That is about all Mr. Haycock has to do. The farmers of this country are shrewd and sharp enough to inspect their own twine when they are buying it.

Mr. COCHRANE. It is just a job.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. We would not do such a thing.

Mr. BLAIN. How did you manage to get along for several years without this inspector ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Complaints were made to the department that the farmers' interests were neglected.

Mr. BLAIN. I suppose there is some correspondence with respect to this appointment ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I don't think there is any correspondence.

Mr. BLAIN. When was the statute passed providing for inspection of binder twine ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I am not quite certain, but it was prior to the inspection being assigned to the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. BLAIN. And since it was passed the binder twine had been manufactured in the penitentiary without any inspection at all. Has there been any general complaint with respect to the quality of the twine manufactured ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. As to the penitentiary, I cannot say, but there have been complaints that the balls of twine were not up to the standard prescribed by the statute.

Mr. BLAIN. What are the inspector's duties ?