

takes two pounds of twine per acre—which may be taken as a fair average, perhaps rather under the amount than over it—

Mr. CASEY. Rather under it.

Mr. MULLOCK. At all events, assuming that is not an outside estimate, it amounts to this, that the farmers of the County of York pay \$10,580.88 more than this twine is worth. They are compelled to do that by reason of the tariff, and I think it is fair to assume that if the present duty were abolished the price of twine would fall in proportion. I have only to point to what has happened within the last few days, since the Budget speech of the hon. Minister of Finance—a speech to a certain extent on the lines of a second resolution of which I had the honour to give notice, and which is on the Paper, to place sugar upon the free list—I need only point to what happened in the sugar market of Canada as soon as his Budget speech was made as a sure indication of what would follow were he to announce a similar policy in regard to binder twine. Why did the price of Canadian sugar fall when the hon. Minister took off the duty on certain grades of sugar? It fell simply as effect follows cause. The cost of the article was reduced, and the consumer got the benefit. Such would inevitably be the result, I have no possible doubt, were he to adopt the same policy with regard to binder twine. If the present condition of the farmer in regard to his binder twine is what I have stated, what is it likely to be should what is indicated in the papers really be the case? It is asserted, with what truth I do not know, by prominent journals, that one great corporation in the States, the National Cordage Company, has acquired control of the binding twine factories of Canada. For example, in the *Ottawa Citizen*, 20th of June, 1891, there appeared the following telegraphic despatch from Halifax:—

“A BIG DEAL.”

“A SYNDICATE SECURES CONTROL OF LEADING CANADIAN CORDAGE MILLS.

“HALIFAX, N.S., 19th.—It is learned here to-day that the National Cordage Company, of New York, has purchased the business of the Dartmouth Rope Works Company. The importance of this transfer can only be properly realized when the magnitude of the turn-over is known. The concern employs over six hundred hands, and the sales exceed one and a-half millions per annum. It is claimed that the National have now secured all of the Canadian mills, eleven in number, and intend to materially increase the capacity of the larger concerns in the Maritime Provinces to compete for export business, owing to cheap labour and other advantages possessed by these mills.”

The advantages of manufacturing in Canada are so great that this factory proposes to be able to export to the free markets of the world, and there enter into open competition with twine manufactured all over the world; and yet the Government proposes to make the Canadian farmer pay 25 per cent. more than the free market price for this product. On Saturday the following article, taken from the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, appeared in the *Globe*:—

“The *Boston Daily Advertiser*, in the course of a favourable notice of the National Cordage Company's affairs, says:

“The company actually has purchased all the cordage mills in Canada, and the cordage business of the Dominion of Canada is protected by a tariff wall which enables the business to work at a profit.”

Now, if it is true that the National Cordage Company, of New York, has obtained control of the

Canadian manufacture, we will simply have in an intensified form the evils from which we were suffering a short time ago. I find, again, in the Journals of this House of 1888, page 403, the evidence of Alexander W. Morris, of Montreal, manufacturer. I understand that this evidence has never been contradicted, and, therefore, we may assume that it was correct. A committee was enquiring into the working of combines, and into the question of the binder twine combines. It appears that Mr. Connors was a member of the combine, and the evidence contained in this book shows that the manufacturers of binder twines had arranged to limit their productions and pool their profits. Mr. Morris was examined as to how the combine affected the trade. He gave the following evidence:—

By Mr. Gillmor:

“Q. Mr. Connors is in your combination? A.—He was in, but there is no combination now.

“Q. How many were there in the combination?—A. Five.

“Q. You were proportioned out what each one should make?—A. Yes; we each had a stated percentage.

“Q. What proportion of all the quantity that was to be made for Canada did he make?—A. On binder twine last year he had a percentage, I think, of 10 per cent. of the whole; and I think he manufactured about two tons of twine.

“Q. How much did he get last year out of the pool, as you call it, as near as you can tell?—A. I think about \$6,000 or \$7,000. Perhaps as much as that. It might be \$5,000.

“Q. For not making rope?—A. No; not making binder twine.”

So, for not having manufactured binder twine, he receives a bonus of about \$5,000, or about a dollar a pound for what he did not manufacture. How did the people who were in the pool come to be able to give \$5,000 for the work which this man did not do? He toiled not, neither did he spin. If the opportunity is again afforded, we will find that there will again be one corporation which will absorb the whole of this industry. I think the farming population are entitled to the relief which I ask for in this resolution, which I, therefore, move.

Mr. GRIEVE. It is not my intention to take up the time of the House very long this afternoon, but I feel it my duty to my constituents to say a few words in reference to the resolution which is before the House. As a young member of this House, representing a farming constituency, and one of the most progressive agricultural constituencies in the Province of Ontario or the Dominion of Canada, I think I would not be doing my duty if I did not raise my voice against the unjust tax which is now being levied on the farmers of this country. I do not intend to enter into a general discussion of the tariff, but I shall confine myself to the resolutions which are before the House. For my part, I am not aware whether there is any combination in regard to the manufacture and sale of binder twine or not; but, if I were to judge by the reports which are presented, I could come to no other conclusion excepting that there is a combine for that purpose. Combines of this nature are about the worst that the farmers have to contend with. I remember when a great combination existed between the binder manufacturers of Canada, though the twine manufacturers were not in the combine at the same time. I remember when the farmers were forced to pay \$210 cash for a binder, while the same article was sold for \$65 less money after the combination was terminated. Some of the farmers who paid \$210 when they