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VOL. 2.

ATWOOD, ONT., FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1891.

NO. 25.

The Binder Twine Tax.

JAMES GRIEVE, M. P., MAKES HIS FIRST SPEECH IN THE COMMONS.

We see by the Hansard report that James Grieve, M. P., for North Perth, made his first *debut* in the Commons last week. A lengthy discussion as to the expediency of placing binder twine on the free list was participated in by Messrs. Mulock, (mover of motion) McMillan, Ferguson, Grieve, and others. Following is Mr. Grieve's speech:—"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 sale of binder twine or not, but, if I were to judge from 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 when the same article was sold, a few months later when the combinations had broken up, for \$65 less money. Some of the farmers who paid \$210 when they could have obtained the same binder for \$145 have come to the conclusion, as we must, that they paid the extra amount simply because of the protection which was afforded to the manufacturers. I understand that now our responsible rulers are not satisfied with the invoice of the article. A Canadian dealer imports an article of twine and receives an invoice for it, and he pays 10 cents per pound or 2½ cents per pound duty, but our Customs officials insist upon appraising the article according to the valuation of the same class of twine of Canadian manufacture, and they charge him from ¼ of a cent to 1 cent per pound over and above. This is a very serious item. I have in my possession several samples of twine which I would be willing to show to hon. gentlemen. They are samples of sisal and manilla twine. The American quotations of manilla twine are 8½ to 10 cents per pound, while the Canadian quotations are from 12 to 13 cents per pound. The American quotations for sisal twine are 7½ cents and the Canadian quotations 11 cents, or 3½ cents in favor of the American twine. Now, I consider this a very serious item to the farmers of Canada, more especially to those of Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, where twine is used to a much greater extent than in the other provinces. Let us take into consideration the enormous amount of twine that is annually used to bind the harvests of this country. I find, in looking over the returns made to this House in 1888, when a committee of the House was appointed to investigate and to report upon alleged combinations. Mr. Massey, of Toronto, one of the largest and most successful manufacturers of Canada, who was examined before this committee, gave it as his opinion that it would require over 3,000 tons of twine to bind the harvest of 1888. If his figures were correct, and I think hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House will admit that probably no better authority could be found in that respect in the whole Dominion of Canada I think I am within the mark when I say it would require 4,000 tons of twine, or 8,000,000 pounds, to bind the harvest of 1891, provided the harvest of 1891 is as bountiful as it was in 1888, and I am sure we all wish that it may be so. Now, taking the price of American and Canadian twine at the present time, we find at the least calculation, at a difference of 3 cents per pound, the farmers of Canada have got to pay between \$250,000 and \$300,000 over the legitimate price of that article. Now, I contend this is a very serious matter indeed. And what excuse have the government for extorting that amount out of the pockets of the farmers? Is it to enrich the treasury? If that amount of money went into the Dominion treasury the government might hesitate in taking action on the matter; but according to the Trade and Navigation returns for 1890, we imported into this country, for home consumption, only 27,990 pounds of twine, valued at \$4,915, and on that we received of duty \$1,279.13; so that the farmers of Canada are annually forced to pay nearly \$300,000 over and above the legitimate price of their goods in order that the treasury may be enriched to the extent of \$1,279.13. Some people talk about encouraging home industry, about encouraging home manufacturers. I believe that the great majority of the farmers of Canada today would rather buy their machines and twine of Canadian manufacture if they could get them at the same price but I do not believe there is a single farmer in Canada who would rather buy twine of a Canadian manufacturer at

12 and 13 cents per pound, when he can get an equally good or better article of American manufacture at 10 cents a pound. Now, I will show the House how this affects the farmers in my own County of Perth, that I have the honor to represent. There is probably only one way by which we can get at the amount of twine used in that county, and that is by taking the number of acres that are put under crop. I find according to the report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries for 1889—the last report issued by the department—that in the County of Perth there were 39,474 acres under fall wheat; 1,553 acres under spring wheat; 17,728 acres under barley; 68,184 acres under oats; 44 acres under rye, making a total of 127,283 acres of grain. It may not be correct to say that all that grain is harvested with binders, but I believe I am within the limit when I say that at least seven-tenths of the farmers have binders, and those who have not, generally hire their neighbors who have binders to cut their grain. Now, as the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock) stated truly, it requires, at the least calculation, two pounds of twine to bind an acre of grain, and I am satisfied he was within the figure when he made that statement, if the Canadian farmer has got to pay 3 cents a pound for twine over and above the legitimate price, he has got to pay 6 cents an acre over and above what he would be obliged otherwise to pay if there were no duty upon twine. That means to the farmers of the County of Perth no less a sum than \$7,636.98 that is wrung out of their pockets in order that two or three manufacturers may become millionaires. Now, I do not think that is a proper position for this Government to place farmers in, when we take into consideration that the farmers of Canada form 75 per cent. of the total population. It seems to me absurd that they should be taxed to that enormous extent in order to make millionaires of a few manufacturers. In the House the other afternoon the Minister of Finance said, in reference to abolishing the duty of raw sugar:

"But the Government has looked over the whole question, and on two conditions it has come to the conclusion to sweep away, from the burden of the great mass of the people, with one stroke of the pen, \$3,500,000 of taxation; and I venture to say, Sir, that never in the history of Canada, either before Confederation or since Confederation, has any Government come down to the House with such a large reduction of taxes as is involved in this proposition."

The Sheep Industry.

There is good room in Ontario for the further expansion of the sheep industry. Not one farmer in three, compared with some years ago, raises sheep, and no doubt this is owing partly to the low price of wool, but those farmers who have thus been complaining should remember that all lustre wools have been low for a long time. Some thirteen years ago fashions changed and demoralized the lustre dress goods business in which our combing wool was used. However there is every reason to believe that in the near future these goods will come into favor again, and then there will be a better demand for this class of goods at a higher figure. But outside of the wool, sheep pay better than any other animal for the meat product. The wool at the most is only the one-seventh or one-eighth of the whole product of the animal, so in reality the flesh is the most important factor, especially when mutton and lamb sell at the present price, and there is no reason to doubt that with the markets at our command in Ontario, prices will remain so. We have two strings to our bow, home demand, we have good markets both in Great Britain and the United States. The Canadian farmer who gets lambs of the right class, who takes care of them, and feeds properly through the winter, can ship them to England, so that they will stand him \$9 apiece, and there is no reason why a lucrative trade with England cannot be carried on in lambs. Let us occupy the American market, too, and make the best out of both. We can prepare our lot to ship to Buffalo and another in the spring for Britain. The Americans will take our lambs that are fat and strong, no matter of what kind; but the people of the Old Country are particular about getting lambs with black faces and with black feet, and fairly well fattened. It seems that the trade might grow to enormous dimensions. If every farmer in Ontario was to feed 6 lambs for the English market there would be 1,200,000 lambs that would bring nine times that amount, over \$10,000,000 of British money, more than has been obtained from the export of cheese from the whole Dominion.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Milk Testing.

To the Editor of THE BEE.

SIR:—In your last week's issue I noticed an item in reference to milk watering which I think has a tendency to mislead the public. The item in question is that "the Inspector of the Western Dairymen's Association had been informed of certain patrons belonging to the Elma Cheese Co's factory watering their milk." The fact of the case is this, that the Inspector was notified of this by the Inspector was notified by Mr. Forrester and Mr. Simpson that I am in duty bound to correct this statement. Now in regard to milk testing, I would suggest that each factory have a Babcock tester, and that the cheesemaker test each patron's milk as often as possible, and that he notify by letter all parties whose milk does not stand 3 per cent. of butter fat. Then if no improvement is found the Inspector be notified and by so doing I think it would give more general satisfaction to the patrons. I know of one factory that has a Babcock tester and that had a patron sending milk which showed 2.80 per cent. of butter fat, and in this manner was notified and the next morning his milk showed 3.80 per cent. of butter fat and has continued so ever since. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space,

I am, yours, &c.,
J. A. GRAY.
Atwood, July 13, 1891.

A Few Days at Home.

To the Editor of THE BEE.

DEAR SIR:—Several friends have expressed a wish that I would continue the letter of two weeks ago. I had no thought of doing so, but as sketches of boyhood scenes and experiences find a response in many hearts, perhaps a few more may be interesting and profitable. My father was an honest tiller of the soil and my boyhood days were therefore spent on the farm. Farm life is surrounded by an atmosphere of romance that touches the heart of every people. The literature of Greece and Rome, as well as that of the Hebrews, is rich with allusions to country life, and who that was born on a farm does not remember all the exhilarating pleasures of country life? As I walked down the lane and viewed again those fields the whole scene came back. The plowing and sowing, the weeding and mowing, and the packing in of the hay and grain clear up to the rafters where the swallows had their nests. To see the tall grass waving like the billows of the sea, the proud heads tossing to and fro; to hear the swish! swish! swish! of the old scythe as it lay low those tossing heads; to see the long wind-rows stretching the whole length of the field, lighted and glorified by the oblique rays of the sun—all this is as inspiring as an epic. The people settled in there as far back as about the year 1825. For many years past it has been occupied by solid and well-to-do farmers, but I was surprised to count up the changes in the occupancy of many of the old places. Of course many have died, others are retired in Bowmanville and Toronto, leaving the old places to sons or selling them to strangers. Nearly all the boys and girls are married and have homes of their own, and I was pleased to learn that many of them were sober, industrious and doing well for both worlds. Owing to defective arrangements I found I was booked for two services. It is always a joy to tell the glad news, but one feels a refreshment in occasionally hearing another. I consented the more readily as I knew I would see many at the services whom I had not time to see at their homes. At Bowmanville they have united the former B. C. church and Methodist and greatly enlarged and beautified one of the buildings formerly occupied so that now they have a fine church, seated in amphitheatre style, with spacious class and Sunday school rooms, furnished with a pipe organ, piano and cottage organ. In the congregation I noticed one of my old school teachers who I noticed the Inspector for Durham—W. E. Tilley, M. A., Ph. D. I afterward had the pleasure of having a pleasant chat respecting the earlier days. I found him as pains-taking and laborious as ever, and carrying on his work with satisfaction to the county. In the evening I spoke in connection with their S. S. anniversary in the village where I spent part of my school days. If I have used the personal pronoun frequently, your readers will please forgive me as it has seemed unavoidable. I left feeling that on the faces of many of them, and perhaps all, I should never look again in this world. I am confident, however, that I shall see a goodly number of them "in fairer worlds on high."

Hastily, yours &c.,
D. ROGERS.
Atwood, July 13, 1891.

The Milk Cases.

To the Editor of THE BEE.

SIR:—I noticed in your issue of last week a local regarding the late milk testing cases referring seriously on the defendants. I believe British law is such that a man is to be considered innocent until proven guilty. I confess that before the trial I was strongly prejudiced against Mr. Forrester, having seen the milk after it had been tested, I was

also present at the trial and heard the evidence. I will as briefly as I can give you my verdict of it. During the examination of the witnesses for the plaintiffs, I was more than ever convinced that he was guilty, but when the witnesses for the defence were called I began to see that I must not be too hasty in my judgment. First, Sydney Holmes was called. I may say that if his evidence had not been so positive in several points it would have had more weight. But regarding the morning's milk, he testified that he was first out, went and brought the cows and put the empty can for the morning's milk on the wagon beside the can containing the evening's milk where it (the evening's milk) had stood ever since being milked in the evening. He then proceeded to milk the cows, milking four each morning, Mrs. Forrester, Janet Forrester, and David Ducklow assisting. Then finished milking he went to the barn for the horse and hitched it to the wagon, assisted by Mr. Forrester if he was there in time. The lids were put on the cans and Mr. Forrester drove it to the road. He (Holmes) walking and when arrived at the road assisted Mr. Forrester to put the milk on the stand ready for the milk hauler. Regarding the evening's milk, he testified looking into the can, which Mr. Morphy, in his address to the magistrate, said he could not do. The cans as you will see stood side by side on the wagon and each one got up the milk into the can according as they got their pails full, and you will readily see that it would require no great effort to look into the can containing the evening's milk. Miss Forrester's testimony agreed in all important points with this and in addition stated that they had sold no butter since May 14. Had sold butter before that date to Holmes, a pedlar, but that the butter was not made from milk sent to the factory, but from the milk that was fed to the calves, and it might be from Saturday night's milk which they never sent to the factory. She could not remember the date when they first sent milk to the factory this season. After standing a very rigid examination which elicited very little more than the facts given here, Mrs. Forrester was called. Her testimony was somewhat confused but in the main she gave a like testimony to the former witnesses. Next morning Mr. Forrester gave his evidence. He produced the cheese book proving they first sent milk to the factory on the 8th of May, and corroborated the statement regarding butter sold and the amount of butter then in the house. He emphatically denied ever having tampered with milk at any time, produced a book wherein he had made records of tests made ten years ago and in short corroborated the evidence of the former witnesses. He also admitted the correctness of the Babcock test but could give no explanation why his milk showed so little butter fat. The Police Magistrate reviewed the case in which he showed from the law that since milk was responsible for its condition, and therefore must bear the penalty. He thought Mr. Forrester had not exercised due care even if he had not tampered with it himself, but with due deference to the magistrate, I fail to see how he could improve except keeping it under lock and key. My opinion is the magistrate could not well do otherwise than impose a fine seeing the milk was found to have been tampered with and Mr. Forrester was responsible for his milk till he put it on the stand. I would not like to say anything against the tester, but with regard to the morning's milk there seems to be a great mystery to me for if we are to believe the witnesses of all concerned regarding it, it must have been only showed 1.80 butter fat instead of 3.00 as is ought to correspond with other tests of Mr. Forrester's milk. The evening's milk might have been skimmed and adulterated too, but I fail to see that the morning's milk could. My opinion is that if milk when tested is found wanting, two or more tests of the same milk should be made before bringing on a trial, because nothing human is infallible and some mistake may have been made in the first test. My impression from the facts given at the trial were that neither Mr. Forrester nor his family tampered with their milk, but it must have been done by some other person. In the meantime he has to bear the penalty. Thanking you for the space occupied,

I remain yours, etc.,
J. A. TURNBULL.
Elma, July 14th, 1891.

Alex. Simpson's Milk Case.

A similar charge to that preferred against Robert Forrester was made before Police Magistrate Terhune on Wednesday afternoon, July 8th. The defendant is also a patron of the Elma Cheese and Butter Co's factory, Mr. Millar, dairy inspector, was the prosecutor. The evidence of John Paul, milk drawer, and Daniel McMillan, the weigher, were taken, to identify the milk delivered at the factory. Thos. B. Millar, dairy inspector, gave his evidence, testifying that he had made a test of defendant's milk on 30th June. He first used the lactometer, which read 31.50, showing normal milk. Then applied the Babcock test, which showed 1.80 butter fat, should show about 3 per cent.; the Babcock test also showed some black substance in neck of bottle, showing cream had been removed and

something added to make it of proper specific gravity. The inspector also tested defendant's milk on the 1st and 4th inst., the 1st showing 3.20 and the latter 3.40, indicating the milk was above the standard. Being cross-questioned by the defendant as to the effect on the milk when cows run in a black ash swamp, the inspector stated this might cause the milk to vary some, but not much; low and high ground would also make some difference, but nothing like the difference there was in defendant's milk.

The defendant, under oath, testified that the milk of the 30th ult. went to the factory in the same state as on other days, and that the milk was not tampered with in any way either by himself or anyone else to his knowledge. Defendant had formerly been a cheesemaker, and swore that he had never heard of adulteration of milk other than by water. The defendant and his wife both testified that no butter had been sold since sending milk to the factory. The latter also deposed that she never adulterated or tampered with the milk in any way, and knew of no one who had. James Porter, father-in-law of the defendant, who lives in the same house and has an interest in the dairy business, and his wife, also gave their testimony, denying any knowledge of the milk having been skimmed or adulterated. After hearing the evidence the court adjourned till Thursday morning, when the magistrate found the defendant guilty and imposed a fine of \$20 and costs.

In commenting upon the two cases, (Forrester's and Simpson's) Magistrate Terhune expressed his belief that the employment of "cheap" cheesemakers was largely responsible for patrons sending adulterated milk to the factory. If the cheesemaker was properly remunerated and did his duty, making frequent tests of the patrons' milk, there would be fewer complaints of tampering with milk, and the quantity to make a pound of cheese would be kept at the proper standard. The law as it now stands makes the milk tests the gauge of the patron's honesty, and unless he can produce satisfactory evidence to account for his milk lacking in cream or for being adulterated, he must suffer the penalty. This fact, the directors and managers of the factory lax in the discharge of their duty. It appears to us that the co-operative system of cheesemaking will never be wholly satisfactory until each patron's milk is rated at its actual cheesemaking percentage and he is remunerated accordingly. This would put a stop to dishonesty, and would offer a premium on good stock and good care of them and their product—Standard.

Perth County Notes.

Mitchell's civic holiday will be Aug. 6th.

30,000 pounds of milk were taken in to Avonbank factory June 20.

Thomas Tanner, of Newton, had a valuable horse killed by the train the other day.

A lacrosse match was played at Clinton between St. Marys and Clinton, resulting 4 to 1 in favor of Clinton.

Sunday, July 5th, was the 33rd anniversary of Rev. Robt. Hamilton's induction into the Motherwell church.

Constable W. Cline, who was fatally shot by a firebrn in Port Huron, Mich., was a cousin of Jas. Cline, of Downie.

J. H. Jameson, township clerk of Blanshard, had taken upwards of 100 orders for the life of the late Sir John Macdonald.

The S. S. anniversary of the Kirkton Methodist church, held on Dominion day was largely attended. The proceeds netting \$132.

The root crop in Downie township is very promising this season and will no doubt help to make good the shortage in the hay crop.

John S. Coppin, License Inspector for South Perth is away on a trip to England. His son will look after his business during his absence.

The picnic held Thursday, July 2nd, at Port Stanley by the Avonton, Carlingford and Motherwell Good Templars was a most pleasant outing.

The number of hogs kept by Mr. White at the Avonbank cheese factory is about 300. Over 200 of these are in the pens while the rest are fed outside.

Hon. Dr. Harrison, of the Portage, formerly of St. Marys, will re-enter local politics and run in Minnedosa in place of Mr. Giles, who will retire from political life.

Mrs. James Murray, of Granton, was on Thursday, July 2nd, removed to the asylum at London. From some cause or other her mind has for some time been giving away.

The Millbank agricultural works which have been closed for some time are again to be opened up, John Grieve, of Neustadt, having purchased them from Mr. Kholman, and it is his intention to put in machinery to do a flouring trade in connection.

The Avonbank cheese factory made a shipment of 270 boxes the other day. A few days ago 15 tons of milk was turned into cheese by Mr. Muir and his band of assistants. Wm. Tier, the energetic salesman, realized one sixteenth of a cent more than any other salesman on the market in his last sale.