

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I am asking for information. I ask the hon. gentleman how his theory works out, when it is proved that these factories or industries enter into a combine?

Mr. WOOD (Westmoreland). I will come to that presently. We might appeal to the experience of the United States under a protective policy, it could be shown from the history of that country that under the protective policy the principle of competition has come in, and that the manufacturers of that country are supplying the people with goods in all the leading lines of manufacture of as good quality and at as cheap prices as the same goods can be obtained in any country in the world. The experience of Canada during the fifteen or sixteen years' operation of the National Policy proves the same thing. Take, for instance, the woollen manufacture of the country. The woollen manufactories of Canada are furnishing the people of Canada with a class of goods that are in every way suited to the people's wants, they are furnishing us with woollen yarns and flannels and tweeds which are durable, which are well suited to our climate and which are in every respect as well suited to the wants of the people as any that can be imported from abroad. Any one who has watched the progress of this industry must have observed that there has been, during recent years especially, a very marked improvement in the quality of the goods produced, and that there has been at the same time, a very marked reduction in the price at which these goods are sold. That has been the result of the introduction of improved machinery, the adoption of better methods and efforts that have been put forth in different ways to reduce the cost of manufacture, and the consumers in Canada have derived the full advantage from every reduction that has been affected in the cost of manufacturing these goods. The same is true with regard to cotton goods, with regard to the different lines of leather goods, boots and shoes, hats and caps, with regard to different manufactures of woodenware, and indeed of all the leading industries of the country. Hon. gentlemen endeavoured to illustrate their theories by referring to the sugar refining industry. The hon. member for South Oxford made the statement that the protective duty given to the sugar refineries of Canada increased the price to the consumers by the amount of that duty; that upon the import of sugar at the present time, this would amount to a tax equal to about \$2,000,000 which the people of Canada pay, and not a dollar of which goes into the public treasury. That argument has been answered in former discussions in this House, by comparing the prices in the United States and in Canada, showing that the people of Canada were paying no more for their sugar than the people of the United States. Tak-

Mr. Wood (Westmoreland).

ing the cost of raw material and the cost of manufacturing, and assuming them to be the same, the refiners of Canada have no larger profit than the refiners of the United States. Previous to the adoption of the National Policy, our sugar was purchased in the United States after it had been refined; since the National Policy, it has been purchased from our own refiners, and our people have paid no higher for it than they would have paid if they had bought it, as they formerly did, in the United States. Now, I do not wish to detain the House with figures upon this point; but I have taken the trouble to ascertain the prices in Canada and in the United States in the months of April and May. On the 5th April, quotations in Montreal for granulated sugar were 3 5-16 to 3 3/8 cents per lb.; at the same date the New York quotations were 3 15-16 to 4 1/8 cents, a difference of about 75 cents per 100 lbs. On the 1st of May the prices in Montreal were 3 1/4 to 3 5-16 cents; on the same day in New York the prices were 4 cents to 4 3-16, a difference of something more than 75 cents per 100 lbs. It must be remembered that at these dates the duty upon raw sugar in the United States was 40 per cent; that calculated upon the present prices of raw sugar, would be about equal to 75 cents per cwt. So that if we take that into account, in April and May, the people of Canada were getting their sugar as cheaply as they would if they had bought it in the United States. If we take the prices at the present time, we find the same result. On the 16th May, I ascertained by telegraph the prices of sugar in New York and the prices in Halifax. In New York the quotations were: Granulated, \$4.44; in Halifax, 4 cents per lb. For yellow sugars, New York prices were \$3.56; in Halifax, 3 cents. It must be remembered that this was after the imposition of the 50 cents duty on raw sugar on the 3rd May last, and alters the relative positions of the markets to that extent. Nevertheless, if we allow for that, the difference in price is still in favour of the Canadian buyer by about 20 cents per 100 lbs. on granulated, and about 30 cents per 100 lbs. on yellow.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Would the hon. member repeat the figures in New York and Halifax?

Mr. WOOD (Westmoreland). The price in New York on the 16th May was \$4.44 per 100 lbs., and in Halifax the price was 4 cents per lb.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) And the difference was what?

Mr. WOOD (Westmoreland). The difference was 44 cents; but from that you must subtract 25 cents, which is the difference between the duty on raw sugar in the United States and the duty on raw sugar in Canada; that leaves 19 cents in favour of the