

I went to the Minister of Immigration and I learned that his annual purchase of binder twine amounts to 1,500 pounds of 600-foot twine. The hon. minister believes that he is purchasing 28,800 feet of twine in every bale, but if the manufacturer takes advantage of the five per cent leeway allowed under the present act, the purchase would be 43,200 feet or more than eight miles short in the 1,500 pounds. I went to the hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance)—who has moved back to this side of the house—and found that his annual purchase amounts to 1,300 pounds of 600-foot twine; his shortage would amount to over seven miles if the manufacturer took advantage of the leeway allowed under the present act. The hon. member for Souris (Mr. Steedsman) has an annual purchase of 1,000 pounds, and his shortage would amount to 28,800 feet, or nearly 5½ miles. The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) has an annual purchase of 1,000 pounds, and his shortage would be the same. The hon. member for Neepawa (Mr. Milne) has an annual purchase of 600 pounds of 600-foot twine, and his shortage would amount to 17,280 feet, or nearly 3½ miles.

The various brands of binder twine offered for sale in Canada each year are checked by the government inspectors and by some branches of the organized farmers. Those inspections show that some firms put out twine which measures well up to the standard, while others seem to be trying to keep just to the five per cent shortage allowed by the act. I have a few figures which I would like to give, taken from some of the inspections.

Ten bales of binder twine labelled 550 feet per pound, or 522½ feet of minimum length allowed under the present act, measured as follows: 507, 528, 554, 559, 594, 518, 550, 555, 560, 597. This was a good lot of twine; there were three short, one correct and six overlength; the average was well above the lengths stated on the tags.

Here is another lot of 24 bales of another brand, labelled 550 feet per pound, and which measured as follows: 505, 517, 524, 528, 510, 522, 525, 531, 534, 538, 541, 548, 550, 556, 531, 533, 538, 541, 543, 550, 551, 560, 558, 578.

An hon. MEMBER: Take it as read.

Mr. BANCROFT: This is a very poor lot; of the 24 bales, two were the correct length, five were overlength and eighteen were short.

Mr. ROWE: Give it to Hansard.

Mr. BANCROFT: Here is another lot of thirteen bales, labelled 600 feet per pound, and which measured: 556, 563, 572, 572, 596, 613, 557, 568, 572, 576, 609. The minimum

length allowed by law, as the leeway is 5 per cent, is 570 feet. Two of these bales were overlength and eleven were short.

I have two more measurements which I would like to give. Ten bales of twine, labelled 550 feet per pound, or 522½ feet minimum length allowed under the present act, measured out as follows: 507, 518, 528, 550, 554, 555, 559, 560, 594, 597.

This is an exceptionally good lot. Three were short, one correct and six overlength. Another lot of nine bales, labelled 600 feet per pound, measured out as follows: 565, 577, 600, 600, 605, 613, 613, 616, 625.

This was an exceptionally good lot. There were two short, two correct, and five overlength.

Mr. ROWE: Are these mostly from the United States?

Mr. BANCROFT: We have a very small importation of binder twine from the United States. These figures show that the binder twine sold in Canada varies greatly in the matter of length. If we take one bale of 550-foot twine mentioned in one of these inspections, this bale measured out 505 feet to the pound. This 48-pound bale was 2,160 feet shorter than the length stated on the tag. This bale was found to average 505 feet per pound, or 45 feet short on each pound in the bale. It takes two feet of twine to bind a sheaf of grain. This particular bale tied 1,080 fewer sheaves than it would have tied had it contained the full length stated on the tag. Probably because of the leeway allowed under the present act, the method of measuring binder twine as it is being wound into balls, is the worst hit-and-miss business you ever saw. In fact, it is not measured at all. The twine is wound into balls on rapidly revolving spindles. When the ball attains a certain size, it is shoved off the spindle automatically and a new ball is commenced in its place. I would suggest that each bale of binder twine offered for sale in Canada should carry a label stating the number of feet of twine contained in the bale. That is, a bale containing 48 pounds net of 600-foot twine, would be labelled "This bale contains 28,800 feet of binder twine." No leeway should be allowed. The manufacturers can, if they find it necessary, attach measuring devices on twine machines. Proof that the 5 per cent leeway is not necessary is found in the advertisements of some of the binder twine manufacturers. I have two advertisements under my hand. This advertisement of a certain company reads: