

gave hon. gentlemen opposite credit for not having reduced the tariff, because it was in the public interest that the old tariff should be retained. The Minister of Finance, in the course of his speech last night said that we did not have the old National Policy any longer. Yet if hon. members will read the present tariff and the old tariff, which was called the National Policy tariff, they will find there is practically no difference.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Was the country ever more prosperous than it is now ?

Mr. TAYLOR. Taking the circumstances into account I say, yes. Why is there prosperity ? Is it due to the fact that manufacturers are more prosperous or that employees are receiving larger wages ? It is because Providence blessed the farmers with a bountiful harvest. I again ask, are our manufacturers more prosperous ?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Yes, they are making money hand over fist.

Mr. TAYLOR. You cannot show that the manufacturers are making money hand over fist, except in such a case as that of the Minister of Customs, who is connected with an industry which is in a combine. Of course those who are manufacturers and in a combine are making money ; but other manufacturers, who are competing with Canadian manufacturers only, are cutting the prices so low that they are making very little profit.

Mr. CAMPBELL. They are running day and night all over the country.

Mr. TAYLOR. Hon. gentlemen opposite promised to reduce the price of binding twine. Have they done so ? I have looked at the papers brought down to-day. The Government advertised for tenders for binding twine manufactured at the penitentiary at Kingston. The prices offered were 4·4 cents for Sisal, 4·9 cents for Beaver, and 5·25 cents for Maple Leaf. The tenders accepted were as follows :—4·4 cents for Sisal, 4·7 cents for Beaver, 4·90 cents for Maple Leaf. I find the prices at which they were delivered to the company were 4 cents for Sisal, 4·70 cents for Beaver, and 5·25 for Maple Leaf. Hobbs & Co. control the output of the Kingston penitentiary and the Toronto prison, and they make the prices. Why are the farmers this year charged for binder twine 7½ to 8½ cents per lb., or nearly 100 per cent advance ? Hobbs & Co. have fixed that price and they are charged with having made \$25,000 out of binding twine manufactured in Kingston penitentiary and Toronto prison.

Mr. CAMPBELL. How is it that the Cordage Company's factory is closed up ?

Mr. TAYLOR. It is not closed up permanently ; it is only closed up this year. The output was all sold together and

Mr. TAYLOR.

brought the same price, and then the market came under the combine in the United States for which Hobbs & Co. are agents. We will obtain explanations in the Public Accounts Committee as to why, when the price was 4·4 cents, the goods were delivered at 4 cents. Perhaps the Hobbs combine contributed the four-tenths of a cent per pound to the election fund ; we do not know that as a fact, but we will investigate the matter before the Public Accounts Committee. The Government promised that the farmers should obtain binding twine at lower prices, but they are called upon to pay this year higher prices than they did during the preceding year. I think hon. gentlemen opposite who are of the opinion that the Government should keep faith with the people, should unite with hon. members on this side of the House in supporting the motion of my hon. friend condemning the Government for having broken faith with the people of the North-west, as with the people of the provinces of the Dominion.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I was sorry I was not in the House to hear the latter part of the speech of the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). Since I observed his motion on the Order paper I have attended almost every sitting of the House with the object of hearing what the hon. gentleman would have to say and of learning the position he would take in regard to this matter. With respect to the form of the hon. gentleman's motion, I confess I do not exactly like it. It seems to me designed to secure votes on the Opposition side of the House without committing the Opposition to support a reduction in the duty on agricultural implements. Had the hon. gentleman made a square motion to take the duty of agricultural implements altogether, I for one would have supposed it. I would have had no difficulty in doing so, because I have always advocated as a member from the west the abolition of the duty on agricultural implements, although I am free to say that the duty at present is such that is not very far from a revenue basis. I am informed that at least one-half of the agricultural implements imported into the North-west at the present time are manufactured in the United States. If that be so, it will be seen that the duty is approaching at all events a revenue basis.

Mr. SPROULE. It must have been on that basis before the present Government fixed the tariff, because they did not reduce the duty on agricultural implements.

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, they did.

Mr. SPROULE. No.

Mr. McMILLAN. I shall show it.

Mr. DAVIN. Permit me to say that mowers and reaper knives, mowing machines,