

get just what they pay for, both as to length and quality, is it not going a long way to make an innocent dealer, who has no means of knowing whether the twine is what it is represented to be, responsible for any shortage? If that is done, it seems to me no man will dare to undertake to deal in twine, because he may sell it in perfect good faith. The answer is that he has recourse against the manufacturer. But that is rather an awkward position. I am heartily in favour of any measure that will protect the consumer; but I think the Minister of Trade and Commerce will himself conclude that to make every dealer in the country responsible for a thing that it is impossible for him to know, because he has no guilty knowledge of the Act, is going a very long way. I do not know whether the right hon. gentleman is able to point to legislation of a similar kind elsewhere; if he can, it would be useful to the committee.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am afraid that unless you make it pretty stringent, you give no protection at all to the farmer. My hon. friend will notice that the dealer has a remedy straight against the manufacturer who had sold him any binder twine which was short. I do not think that any hardship will result from compelling the dealer to be responsible in the first instance, and he will be able to protect himself if he receives short measure from any manufacturer. I am afraid that to exempt the dealer would be merely offering a premium to the fraud we are desirous of restraining. My hon. friend will observe that a considerable amount of twine has been offered to the farmers which was short. I can assure him that I have received a great many communications from farmers and others, all commending the object of the government in this matter in giving them full measure in the matter of twine. I do not think any practical harm will result from it.

Mr. CLANCY. There is much in what the right hon. gentleman says. But it would be very pertinent here to inquire what the inspector of binder twine is doing, if he makes his visits as he should to the establishments where twine is being manufactured, and where it is imported. It seems to me that if he is doing his duty there would be really no occasion for any widespread complaint. I may just mention here—it is a very difficult thing to say—that binder twine that is known to be short has been reported and the attention of the inspector has been called to it, as I am informed—I give this for what it is worth, I do not vouch for the accuracy of my information, because I have no personal knowledge of it. But I am informed that in one case at least, where it was brought to his notice, the inspector never proceeded against the parties who had manufactured twine contrary to the law. Now, if there are complaints that have brought forth letters to the hon. gentleman,

it would seem to emphasize that statement as having some element of truth in it.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If the hon. gentleman will give me the particulars, I will make inquiries into them.

Mr. CLANCY. I will give them to the hon. gentleman privately.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the date of the Inspection Act relating to binder twine?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think 1901.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I notice that the second clause of this Bill says:

Upon or attached to every ball of binder twine sold or offered for sale in Canada there shall be a label with the name of the dealer and the number of feet of twine per pound in the ball marked or stamped thereon.

I think that is a very wise provision. At the present time the law only refers to the manufacturer, but if I sell somebody binder twine without the tag bearing the name of the manufacturer and the number of feet to the pound attached to the ball of twine I cannot be prosecuted. The provision of the first clause of this Bill is that the responsibility shall also apply to dealers. Those who deal in binder twine must see, when they buy from the manufacturers, that these provisions are complied with, that the name of the manufacturer and the number of feet to the pound are stamped upon a tag attached to each ball of twine. If the dealer does that when he buys the twine from the manufacturer he has nothing to fear.

Mr. CLANCY. It goes farther than that. Suppose that the law has been entirely complied with in the direction the hon. gentleman indicates and it is found that notwithstanding that the twine is short of the length marked upon the tag the dealer is then liable without recourse.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Then he has recourse against the manufacturer for selling him wrongly marked twine. It is the dealer's duty in the first place to see that the law is complied with. When he buys the twine he must see that the number of feet to the pound is stamped properly upon it and if a dealer sells that twine wrongly marked or stamped he is guilty of fraud.

Mr. GILMOUR. It is rather the manufacturer's duty to see that the twine is marked according to law and that it contains the number of feet stamped upon the tag. Have the inspectors not time to go around and inspect all the factories and see that the provisions of the law in regard to the length of the twine are complied with?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I think the manufacturer is certainly liable, and there is a penalty declared against him if he wrongly marks binder twine, but in case there is collusion