

him so much as his clothing, or groceries, or coal oil, or implements, on all of which there are duties, which Mr. Mallory apparently does not regard as grievous injustices. Yet the abolition of the duty on each or all of them would be as likely to benefit the farmer as the abolition of the duty on binder twine.

The binder twine and cordage manufacturers have only asked to be put on the same footing as other industries—as cotton or woollen manufacturers, or bacon and pork packers. They have pointed out that unless they are put on the same footing as other manufacturers they will be forced to close their mills. Will that benefit the farmer in any way? It will not bring him cheaper twine. Between the competition of the different factories and the sale of the output of the Toronto Central Prison and Kingston Penitentiary factories, the prices are kept as low in Canada as they can be anywhere for goods of similar quality, and in binder twine quality is of quite as much importance as cost. A delay of an hour or two on harvest day, because of inferior twine, makes the cheap article the dearest in the end. The Canadian factories make twine of good quality, and while they supply the market a good quality is assured. All they ask for is such a duty on the foreign-made article as will warrant them in keeping their machinery in operation—such a duty as is put on cottons, or woollens, or sugar, for the benefit of the whole country.

Mr. Mallory, in his letter, speaks of farmers remembering the time when they had to pay 18 cents a pound for binder twine. They can also remember the time when they had to pay 11 and 12 cents a pound for sugar. Sugar is not half that price now; and the same conditions have brought about a reduction in the cost of binder twine. Wheat is not the only thing that has gone down in price. The fibre out of which binder twine is made used to cost from 15 to 20 cents a pound. Now it costs from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound. The manufacture costs about 2 cents a pound, and the storage and marketing about one-half cent a pound.