

pound, and mixed, 570 to the pound; Blue Cap or Blue Ribbon, 550 feet to the pound; and Red Cap, 480 feet to the pound. Therefore, the farmers, and the Patrons of Industry, at and around Lucan, pay 15 cents for 690 feet of Blue Ribbon; and 16 cents for 690 of Red Cap, as compared with 14 cents and 13 cents for 690 feet of equally good twine sold at Chadwick, Illinois. Now, take quotations at Valley City, North Dakota, and at a point in Manitoba. Merriek, Anderson & Co., of Winnipeg, telegraphed Mr. Morris on the 9th instant:

Red Cap, 12 cents; Blue Cap, 13 cents, cost at Neepawa on the Manitoba and North-western Railway.

A. Gray writes from Valley City, North Dakota, 29th January, 1893:

Prices paid by consumers of binder twine for the year 1892, say—pure manila, 15 cents, standard, 13½.

Very well, at Neepawa, 17 cents was paid for 690 feet of Red Cap, and 16 cents for 690 feet of Blue Cap; or 2 cents and 2½ cents more, respectively, in Manitoba for a similar quality of twine, than was paid in North Dakota. Now, that difference on a pound of twine is a serious thing to the farmers. Hon. gentlemen need not be surprised if the farmers I represent are complaining; and I know that on this subject I represent the farmers of the west. From every part of the west I have received letters in regard to this matter since I put this motion on the Paper. Is it any wonder if the farmers of the west—I cannot speak for those of Ontario, because I have not heard from them—when they compare prices at Lucan and prices at Dakota, press for a reduction of the duty upon binder twine? I may say that I believe the figures given in this circular are quite correct. Now, my hon. friend the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Stairs) said he felt diffident when speaking on this question of binder twine. I do not wonder. I will say this for my hon. friend, that it goes against my grain to oppose him in any way. I cannot bear to do it. It is a difficult matter for me; but, as somebody has said, "Plato is my aunt, but truth is my sister." My hon. friend is a colleague in this House, and a respected colleague, but the interests of the farmers overtop my kindly feelings for him. My hon. friend told us that this was no monopoly, because, he said, the Ontario Government was going into the manufacture of binder twine; and he heard there was another company—I believe that is the Brantford Farmers' Company. I have heard of a Brantford company that was started, and it was swallowed up by this vast combine, as Aaron's serpents swallowed up the others. And, Mr. Speaker, although my hon. friend is the president of this company, he is, as I say, of all men I have known in this House, probably one of those who would most readily fix esteem; still, when dealing with

him as the president of this cordage company, I am reminded of what my Lord Byron says of Lambro:

Now, Lambro was the mildest mannered man,  
That ever scuttled ship or cut a throat.

And although my hon. friend is the mildest-mannered man in this House, still, he is at the head of a combine. Now, I do not want him to take my opinion about a combine; I will not ask him, even, to take the opinion of any member of this House about a combine; I do not ask him to take the opinion of any editor in his own part of the country, about a combine; but I will ask him to take the opinion of one of his own colleagues. And who is this colleague whose opinion I will ask him to take? None other than Mr. Morris, his own vice-president. In 1888, this gentleman was at the head of the J. A. Converse Cordage Company, which was then the largest in Canada. It had been in a pool with a smaller concern. On 23th March, 1888, an Associated Press despatch was sent broadcast throughout the country, signed by Mr. Morris, announcing that he had withdrawn from the pool, and giving reasons for the step he had taken. Among other things, he said—and I will ask my hon. friend's attention to this:

We have all lost faith in combinations and are convinced that sooner or later such organizations will not be allowed to exist.

"Will not be allowed to exist!" Well, Mr. Speaker, why should they not be allowed to exist? The only reason why they could not be allowed by Government to exist is that they must be immoral; and I say that they are commercially immoral, as well as detrimental to the interests of the people of this country. Now, Sir, I have also put barbed wire in this motion as one of the things from which, in my opinion, the duty ought to be taken off. I do not want to have any industry injured that has been fostered by the National Policy; but where any manufacturer has abused the privileges of the National Policy, has abused excessive privileges, in those cases I want the Government to interfere. Now, as regards the matter of barbed wire. In the North-west and all over Manitoba, with rare exceptions, you have a prairie country and little timber. Barbed wire is a necessity for fencing. Let me show the House the interest the farmers of the North-west has in having the duty on barbed wire reduced. The quantity of barbed wire introduced into the country last year, up to 30th of June, 1892, from Great Britain was 15,792 lbs., of the value of \$589, on which a duty was charged of \$236; from the United States 171,283 lbs., of the value of \$5,363, on which a duty was charged of \$2,569. If the tariff were not too high altogether, surely more than that quantity would have come in when you consider what are the rates in the