

HON. MR. PERLEY—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. When I saw two members of the House of Commons grossly insulted in the committee by being flatly contradicted, it made me angry.

HON. MR. SMITH—You get angry too easily, and if you were one of the modest Senators of this House, when 16 to 3 passed their opinion against this Bill, you would have gone quietly away with such a majority against you.

HON. MR. PERLEY—I will tell you about that when the time comes.

HON. MR. SMITH—I don't want to place that hon. gentleman, or the hon. gentleman from Quinté, or the hon. gentleman from Monck, in a false position, but they are a combination of three, and they want to override the sixteen members of the committee, and run them into a corner. I did not want to trouble the House, and should not have done so this afternoon only for the zeal that a few hon. gentlemen showed against the large majority of that committee, and I would not have said a word if the hon. gentleman from Quinté had not moved his resolution. But when he moved this resolution in the face of the feeling of this House, and in the face of the almost unanimous report of the committee, I would not be the man I consider myself to be if I did not say a few words on the subject. I have stated the truth. I have said what I know. For the last twenty years there has been no profit in the manufacture of salt; it has been almost given away to the farmers at the cost of production. When one of our representatives from the west, a worthy man, whom everybody appreciates up there, wants to show that these combinations are ruining the whole country, I say no. I say it is a combination of capital and a combination of wisdom that has brought our country into the position it now occupies. It was by a combination of the wisdom of the country that our old chieftan brought the National Policy into existence, and has built a railway from ocean to ocean that has made us prominent before the nations of the world as a people who know how to take care of ourselves. It is this combination of wisdom and capital that is keeping us here, I might say almost for a purpose, and we have accomplished that great purpose, the

establishment of a prosperous, a progressive and a powerful Dominion. It is that combination of wisdom and capital that has attracted the notice of our American cousins, whose eyes we have opened, and who say that the sooner they get hold of this promising country the better. The Dominion has become prosperous. It has grown up from a few petty Provinces to be one of the foremost colonies of Great Britain, and is not that the result of a combine? Has not everything that is great and successful something of the nature of a combine about it, in a reasonable and legitimate way? I would suggest to hon. gentlemen that we should all combine for the purpose of keeping this great country in our own hands, instead of threatening to break up the Confederation. Hon. gentlemen should be careful not to make statements that cannot be borne out by facts, and they should not jump to the conclusion that great fortunes are being made by any trade combinations in this country, for there are none that I know of at the present.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—Though I do not, as a rule, like to find fault with others who have spoken, I must say that what we have listened to this afternoon has been to a great extent a repetition of what we heard in committee the other day. Every speech that has been made has been on some other subject than the question before us. The question before us is not whether these combines are right, or whether they are wrong: it is whether we should pass a Bill this Session that, in effect, says that what we did last year was all wrong. I think that is it, as near as I can describe it. Last year we introduced the words "unduly" and "unreasonably" into this Act with the almost unanimous consent of the House.

HON. MR. POWER—No; no.

HON. MR. READ (Quinté)—No; it was not.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—It was by a large majority at any rate, and that is the question we have before us now, and that was the question we had before us in committee the other day; but we could not possibly keep any speaker down to the subject at issue. Each speaker would insist on telling us a long story about something that was entirely foreign to the question before