

selling it for \$1.50 per barrel. This is not a large profit. Taking out the 36 cents for freight, it left the price \$1.05. Whether they are making money on that price or not I do not know, but I think they could not afford to keep up the industry and sell it for less than \$1 per barrel. Some reference has been made to combinations of working men. I think the fact that labor is combining these days arises from the existence of other combines, and I feel that if I could not do business without being under the thumb of a combination I would not do it at all. I have employed many men in my time—sometimes as many as 300, and I have never had a quarrel with them, but now you cannot do anything—you cannot build a house or do any other work without having a combination at the back of it. I think that is wrong. Then my hon. friend spoke about cheese. It may be said that the farmers combine together to produce cheese, but, after all, it is not a combine for extorting an excessive profit. The cheese trade of Canada is a wonderful industry. It stands second to none. Not many years ago we imported all our cheese from the United States; now we export it, and the Americans are very glad when they can get their cheese into this country and have it shipped as Canadian cheese, because ours is better than theirs. The feed for our cattle is better and stronger than on the American side. The further north we go the more nutritious are the pastures. You can observe it as you travel north from Belleville. Every ten miles you go back you can see an improvement in the quality of the stock. If the feed is better it gives more nourishment to the cattle, and the result is better cheese and better butter. Some reference has been made to Mr. Matthewson, of Montreal. I have known him for many years and I believe him to be one of the most honorable leading merchants of Montreal. If he refused to enter into the combine he had a perfect right to do so, and I do not agree with my hon. friend from Toronto, that if he loses on sugar he makes it up on something else where it cannot be detected, because Mr. Matthewson is not that kind of a man. I do not believe there is a more upright, honorable man in business in Montreal, than Mr. Matthewson. I now come to wheat: there have been combines in wheat. The only combine that I have ever had anything to do with was in

reference to wheat. That was in March, 1831, at Belleville. I was going to be absent about a week on a visit with my wife and sister. It was well known that I was going away, and I was invited to a meeting at a public house opposite my establishment, and I went over to see what was up. It was a meeting of merchants to settle the prices of grain. We then were paying \$1 a bushel for wheat. A chairman and secretary were appointed, and it was agreed that the price should be \$1 per bushel, with the understanding that there was to be no change made by any merchant without first giving notice to the secretary, and his giving notice to those merchants who were buying. I left in the morning, but after I got out half way on my journey, and when I was taking dinner, I thought it was best for me to return. I sent my wife and sister on and returned, but I took good care not to go back into Belleville until 9.30 at night. Before entering the place I took the bells off my horse and wrapped them in my buffalo skin to prevent them making a noise. When I went into my store I found the clerk was winding up the business of the day. I asked him: "What about wheat?" He said: "We have not bought any to-day. They were paying 5s. 3d." I said: "Mark it on the board that we are paying 5s. 6d." Next morning two of the merchants walked in and said to the clerk: "What, are you giving 5s. 6d. for? We agreed to pay 5s." I met them and said: "You are the ones that are putting up the price. It is 5s. 6d. to-day; to-morrow it will be 5s. 9d., and next day 6s." I did not buy any at 6s. I sent every one that came in to sell over to the others, and not one of those merchants who paid such a price made anything. None of them lost less than \$300, and two of them who worked together lost \$3,000. I had forty thousand bushels of wheat in different storehouses which cost me 4s. 7½d., and I sold that in Montreal at 7s. 5½d. What was left over I sold for 6s., so they did not make much out of their scheme. I have a mill, and two years come September I got it started. The millers around me were offering 90 cents for wheat and asking \$6.30 for flour, the purchasers furnishing their own bags. That was a very great difference. I commenced and paid \$1.00 for wheat and sold flour for \$5, and made money on it. These men were getting their wheat from Toron-