

What further need is there of demonstrating that manufacturing interests, as well as the farming industry and the development of our natural resources demand an immediate relief from the effect of customs duties, and no attempted readjustment to peace conditions after the war will prove effective in allaying the unrest and sense of injustice that exist, without the removal of the burden of protection.

The effect of protection as we have it in Canada, on the prosperity of the people is cumulative—the longer it continues, the greater the depression. Manufacturing industries in the early days of the National Policy prospered. With the added duties and cumulative effect of protection only the larger manufacturing concerns constituting only five per cent. of the whole and who receive their raw material free from custom duties, have profited. The larger portion of this raw material is subject to the war tax on imports. Take a few illustrations: Hides are free, as is also extract logwood, fustic oak bark and preparations thereof, by statute. Tanners get a drawback of 99 per cent. on stearine and cassine when used in the manufacturing of leather. Hypo-sulphate of soda and other tanning articles are free by order-in-council. The shoe maker, the shoe repairer, the harness maker and all others whose basic raw material is leather, have to pay 15 per cent. custom duty plus seven and one-half per cent. war tax. They get no free raw material. Raw cotton is free. Wool is free. Textile manufacturers are protected to the extent of 32 to 42½ per cent. Some 3,000 industries in the Dominion are the converters of the products of the cotton and woollen mills into finished garments. They get no free raw material, but are compelled to pay the group of financiers, who control the textile manufacturers in Canada, the full extent of the protection they receive. They collect this tribute from their customers.

Oppressed Industries

The report of the Minister of Customs for the year ending March 31, 1917, shows that we imported that year 461,733,609 dollars' worth of dutiable goods, and 383,622,697 dollars' worth of free goods. Free goods being 46 per cent. of the imports and were largely imports of raw material and almost exclusively used by the larger manufacturers. Of the 21,306 manufacturing establishments in 1915, the following is a partial list of industries culled from the 1916 Census Bulletin, which obviously receive no benefit from protection, but are victims of its effect on the increased cost of production by creating excessive overhead costs, including increased fixed and working capital:

	Number		Number
Aerated and mineral waters	221	Electric light and power.....	307
Artificial limbs and trusses.....	9	Fish, preserved	775
Asbestos	9	House building	556
Awnings, tents and sails.....	30	Lithographing and engraving.....	60
Cotton bags	10	Log products	1,887
Baskets	19	Lumber products	661
Bicycle repairs	13	Monuments and tombstones.....	171
Blacksmithing	611	Painting and glazing.....	115
Boats and canoes	83	Patent medicines	106
Boot and shoe repairs.....	127	Photography	280
Boxes and bags (paper).....	71	Picture frames	25
Boxes (wooden)	85	Plumbing, tinsmithing	933
Bread, biscuits and confectionery... 1,375		Printing and book binding	411
Brick, tile and pottery	230	Printing and publishing	646
Butter and cheese.....	3,307	Roofing and roofing materials.....	39
Men's clothing, custom	1,048	Shipping and ship repairs.....	30
Women's clothing, custom	853	Signs	59
Cooperage	117		
Dyeing and cleaning.....	133	Total	15,402