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RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

IN A FORMER ISSUE we directed attention to the fallacies upon which a defence of the system of indirect taxation rests and the tendency of such a system to fall unjustly upon that section of the community least able to bear it. In this we propose to deal with export duties and bounties (directly or indirectly paid, of which the latter is the worst form). The hurtful tendencies of export duties upon that which is in greater part the production of private enterprise is everywhere recognized, and in no English-speaking country is such a tax resorted to except it be upon some natural product which is being exported at such a rate as must shortly exhaust the supply of some article of necessary use for home consumption. In Canada such a tax has been advocated with the object of preserving the natural forests from complete exhaustion from the too vigorous prosecution of the lumber trade. Considering the fact that such a tax would be levied in this case upon a natural product which originally belonged to the people of Canada, and for which they have—except in very few instances—received nothing like an adequate return, and that its tendency would be not so much to reduce the profits of cutting or manufacturing timber as to lessen the speculative value of timber limits, then would be in its imposition an element of justice. But from the fact that such a tax would lessen the chances of a numerous and influential class to acquire wealth without exertion, or even what might rightfully be called enterprise, it has never had at any time a prospect of extensive application. The considerations then which stand in the way of its adoption are not those of justice, but of private

gain, which in this case, as in many others, weigh more with our legislators than the public welfare.

In this matter British Columbia may well claim to be far in advance of the rest of the Dominion in having adopted a much better system for the conserving of the interests of her people in her magnificent forest wealth.

In Canada the expedient of paying bounties out of the public treasury has never to any extent been resorted to, but it must inevitably in the end be the outcome of the protective delusion. History proves it. In Britain this culmination of the protective mania was reached when the British taxpayer was compelled to pay more for his bread than his French neighbor across the channel by nearly the amount of the bounty paid out of the British treasury to the exporters of British wheat. In Germany to-day it has come when German sugars, cheaper to English consumers by nearly the amount of the bounty paid by the German Government for their exportation, has given possession of the markets of the world to English packers of fruits and sweetmeats. In the United States it has made its appearance in the bounty clauses of the McKinley bill. And the reason is not far to seek, for bounties paid from the public purse, and tariff laid on for the purposes of protection, are practically the same in principle.

About a year ago the advocates of protection to home industries pointed with pride to the large sugar refinery being erected at Vancouver as the outcome of our protective policy, and they pictured in glowing tints the great benefits to the province from the cheap sugar it would produce. In the meantime the McKinley bill placed sugar on the free list in the United States, with the result that sugars costing consumers about eight cents on this side the line cost American consumers only five cents. The greater portion of the production of the Vancouver refinery is sold in the latter market, and the fact that the refinery is now running to its full capacity, and that the company propose extending for the purpose of increasing its out-

put, may be fairly taken as evidence that the exportation of sugars to a cheaper market than our own is a profitable business. This being the case, it follows that the difference between the price we must pay for Vancouver sugars and the price at which the same article may be bought at across the line is a bounty which the law enables the manufacturers of sugar to collect from consumers in this province, and is just as wrong in principle as if it were a gratuity paid out of the public treasury.

FAT WOMEN.

AMONG Polynesian races the degree of beauty of a woman is determined by her weight, regardless of what we are taught of the classic in face and figure. A beauty of two hundred and fifty pounds exceeds one of one hundred and fifty pounds by far more than one hundred per cent., while one of three hundred or more is regarded as perfectly ravishing. Enlightened foreigners are inclined to smile at the native's criterion of loveliness, but, according to Ella Wheeler Wilcox, we have only lip service for sylph-like beauty, while our whole heart goes out to the inflated billowy beauty.

The willowy Ella says: "If you have not positive beauty, or the subtle magnetic charm that carries all before it, you merely want to acquire flesh—lots of it, my dear girl—and you will have plenty of admirers. Men like roly-po'y women. I know they will raise a howl of denial, but all I ask of you is to watch them. Time and again I have seen girls with beautiful faces acting as wall-flowers; I have never yet seen a wall-flower who had fat shoulders and big arms. 'I can't endure a fat woman,' I heard a man say last winter. But that evening I chanced to see him in a ball room where there was a great variety of pretty women, all strangers to him. He looked about him with a critical eye, and finally said to me: 'Get me an introduction to the girl in lavender; she is superb.' The girl in lavender was unnoticeable in face and feature—her complexion was dull, her eyes lustreless; but she was sumptuous of form. Cushions of soft white flesh billowed up over her square-