

to whom a few cents added to the cost of their frugal fare means famine. All authorities agree that from this fringe a large percentage of criminals are recruited. Years of observation of the criminal statistics of Berlin, Prussia, taken in conjunction with the price of bread there, proved beyond doubt that an increase in the price of bread was always followed by an increase in the average number of convictions. Now, as the imposition of protective duties is known to exalt prices, and gradually to increase the percentage of poor by forcing the wealth into fewer hands, it follows that the introduction of such duties must not only increase the depth of this ever-present fringe of people in want, but instantly intensify their misery by increasing the cost of living.

Thus we have as the necessary result of the imposition of protective duties an increase in the percentage of that section of the community from which many criminals are recruited, and an instant intensification of one at least of the leading incentives to crime among them,—viz., actual want.

When we analyze the facts that the great statisticians have given to the world, and apply a little common sense to the observation of our surroundings, it is not difficult to understand why crime is increasing most rapidly in those countries where the highest protective tariffs prevail, and is decreasing in those countries where such tariffs are being abolished. The former system necessarily increases the number of poor and adds to their burdens, the remission of these imposts lightens their burdens, thus lessening the incentive for crime, and at once secures a more equitable distribution of wealth by leaving it in the pockets of those who earn it.

The importance of this question of the increase of crime may be judged when we consider that the only excuse for the existence of any government is the security it affords for the lives and property of the governed; there would be no necessity for such an appendage to our civilization were all humankind honest and good. We pay our taxes to obtain security in the peaceful possession of the fruits of our toil and protection for our lives, therefore, in the absence of calamities such as befel Japan in 1889, '90 and '91, and ourselves in 1876, '7 and '8, when crops failed, the efficiency of a government may be judged by the criminal records of the community covered. Increasing crime involving decreasing security for life and property, decreasing crime indicating increasing security.

The fact that the downfall of the civilizations of the past was preceded by a long-continued and persistent increase of crime, should warn us of the danger that looms ahead, if the shallow mind that now dominates the home Government succeeds in foisting on the whole empire this poverty and crime producing system of protection, that at present is but disintegrating some of its minor parts, for increasing crime is an infallible sign of the disintegration and decay of a nation, no matter what its advancement in other respects appears to be.

Mr. Ellis asserts on the authority of Mr. Lea and Mr. Morrison that crime increases with every increase of wages and that "the increase of wealth among all classes is a cause for the increase of crime." Broad facts disprove these assertions.

For instance, in England, during the last fifty years, wages advanced 50 per cent. while cost of living fell 50 per cent., thus improving the material position of the wage-earners 200 per cent.; her affluent class, those who pay income-tax increased eight times faster than population, and her paupers decreased 50 per

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