

long as there is a duty exacted on food-stuffs brought from abroad. This is in face of the fact that all crops this year will be enormous, and the farmer is feeding all the livestock he possibly can; yet the packers will keep right on with their favorite game of bleeding the public.

There are two things that are responsible for this state of affairs: the infamous Payne-Aldrich tariff and the enormous exportation of meat products and breadstuffs to other countries. It does appear paradoxical that after paying the ocean freight charges and the expense of refrigeration for four thousand miles of sea voyage, American meat sells for much less in and near London than at Chicago, the point of origin.

Were it not for the unfortunate viewpoint on such matters of President Taft the price of meat and of other food commodities would be away down to-day. Such is, however, not to be hoped for as long as there is a duty on food-stuffs. It is a shameful state of affairs when the people have to pay one-third more for meat here than in England. Much of the meat eaten there comes from Chicago, Illinois, United States of America. Within a radius of forty miles of London American gravy beef, which is the round steaks, sells for twelve cents, while here it sells at eighteen cents a pound. For a fact, the American product is so poor that the Englishman who can afford it will buy his native beef and pay twenty-two cents in preference to buying the cheap American meat.

Pork used to be the poor man's chief diet once upon a time. I can well remember when salt pork sold at six cents and ham at eight cents a pound. Where is the price of pork to-day? At present prices the wage-earner has to forego it entirely. It is a startling anomaly, but chicken is cheaper even than pork.

I believe it is high time to place an export duty on all foodstuffs, the same as England has had to do repeatedly. France, Austria, and Germany prohibit the exportation of