

reveals the curious fact that crime shows the most rapid increase in those most highly protected, and is decreasing in England and Japan, and in those countries only since they abrogated protection.

The well known tendency of protection to force the accumulating wealth of the community into the hands of an ever-decreasing percentage of the people, which necessarily involves an increasing percentage of poor, no matter how great the aggregate increase of wealth, accounts for the increase of crime under the system of taxation; for the poor and crime increase and decrease together in all countries and times. This effect of protection on the distribution of wealth is well illustrated by comparing the statistics of the United States under protection with those of England under free trade.

Thirty-five years ago 40 per cent. of the people of the United States owned 90 per cent. of the wealth; according to their last census 10 per cent. of the people owned 90 per cent. of the wealth. (b)

Since England abandoned protection she has increased her affluent class (those subject to income tax) eight times faster than population, and decreased her poorest class (the paupers) 50 per cent. (c.) These facts prove that the accumulating wealth of England is being disseminated amongst an increasing percentage of the population, in spite of the laws of entail and primogeniture still in force there—the design and effect of such laws being to check such dissemination.

Although such laws are not in force in the United States a vast decrease in the affluent and consequent increase in the poor class are apparent, since they adopted protection in the sixties, though the aggregate increase of wealth was greater than in England, owing to the new land brought under cultivation; all the land of value in England was cultivated long before she abandoned protection.

In the United States, between 1850 and 1890, the inmates of their prisons increased in number 500 per cent. faster than population. (b)

In England between 1841 and 1889 the number of convictions decreased 71 per cent. (c) In Japan (free trade since 1866), the total convictions for the following years indicated the improvement going on there:

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Serious crimes	5,940	4,397	3,174	2,451
Lesser crimes	86,474	79,723	73,279	86,555 (d)

In 1889 a serious failure of crops occurred in Japan, followed in 1890 and 1891 by earthquakes and fires, the most disastrous since 1854. During 1891 the horrors were aggravated by storms and pestilence. The destruction of life and property was of appalling magnitude, involving the ruin of many and the impoverishment of millions of her people. (e) This series of visitations and the sudden increase of poverty they necessarily entailed were followed by a serious increase of crime, especially of the lesser sort, during 1890 and 1891; but this increase of crime was little if any more pronounced than took place in France, the United

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