

to their own exertions, but to rely upon Protection, are always weakly bantlings. They are ever calling for more protection and higher duties, rather than endeavouring, by renewed exertions and by adapting themselves to the tastes and wants of their customers, to meet competition on equal terms. A trade is thus created with interests and hopes antagonistic to those of the rest of the community. It becomes a kind of vested interest. It creates around it a circle of dependent interests, all associated for the same object of maintaining Protection, and of taxing the community for their sakes; and long after the time when under the most extreme view the industries, having passed through the period of infancy, should walk without assistance, they still succeed in imposing upon their fellow-citizens the obligation of supporting them. With reference to Europe, I will only add that although the results of our commercial treaties have been very great, they fall far short of what they would be were there perfect free trade. The countries in the north of Europe—Norway and Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and Belgium, have generally adopted of late years more liberal tariffs than the other Powers of Europe. Comparing the results, and omitting Holland, the great part of whose trade with us is a transit trade, I find that since 1859 our trade with the three countries with the more liberal tariff has increased 300 per cent, and that both export and import trades have increased in the same ratio. With the four countries with less liberal tariffs, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy, our trade has increased about 100 per cent,—our imports therefrom have increased 150 per cent and our exports only 75 per cent. Our trade with the Channel Islands, which is perfectly free, amounts to £20 per head of the population of these industrious islands; our trade with Belgium, under a liberal tariff, to £8 10s. per head; our trade with France amounts to only £2 per head. Our trade with France has increased from a total of 26 millions in 1859 to 73 millions in 1876. But in 1859 our exports and imports with France nearly balanced one another. In 1876 the imports from France were nearly double our exports to her—viz, 46 millions to 27. In other words, while the exports to France have doubled since 1859, our imports from that country have quadrupled, showing that the treaty has had infinitely greater effect upon our import trade from France than upon our exports. It is the result of almost perfect freedom of trade on one side of the Channel. I am not one of those who attach any importance to the balance of trade with a particular country, nor would I advocate a policy of retaliation founded on this difference. The import trade is relatively as valuable to us as the export trade. We must pay for these imports by exports elsewhere, but I do not hesitate to say that our export trade to France and to Europe generally is vastly less than it might be; and if there were equal and perfect freedom on both sides of the Channel and between the various countries of Europe trade would be developed and increased to a degree of which we have little conception or example. (Cheers.) Lastly, it is to perfect free trade, and to a great increase of commercial relations between the European States, that alone we can look for any antidote to the strong military feeling which now infects the whole of Europe.

The writer maintains that Canada is prospering in all her industries, and that her manufactures are established on a sound basis. Trade is as free as speech or religion. **WE ARE FREE TO BUY WHERE WE CAN BUY CHEAPEST, AND TO SELL WHERE WE CAN SELL FOR THE MOST MONEY.** The wealth of the country is fairly distributed among all classes. But if we were to heed the moanings of the Conservative Press, Canada would appear the veritable Gehenna, a place of death and bones, stricken with the barrenness of eternal desolation, where nothing can exist but a coterie of demagogues.

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