

In all our own self-governing colonies wide customs tariffs necessary for revenue in new countries have been strengthened into protective tariffs, carefully devised on strictly national lines, and directed chiefly against the Mother country.

This great and almost world-wide revival of Protection has been witnessed and in many cases severely felt by certain classes of our manufacturers of export goods during the later half of our Free Trade period.

Thus the force of the example of other manifestly prosperous communities, and the force of the resentment of particular classes who had been directly injured, have combined to produce a certain and partial reaction against our former complacent acceptance of a Free Trade policy, which had become traditional, and to promote a revival of Protectionist sentiment among our urban classes.

Coincident with this world-wide revival of Protection, a period of severe and prolonged agricultural depression followed one of long-continued prosperity. The unforeseen, unimagined development of means of