

First, the coal-tax and the bread-tax, so-called. As to the former our reply is that the price of coal to Canadian consumers would not fall five cents per ton were coal made free to-morrow. The price of coal is fixed by the great American coal-carrying railway companies, and they actually favor Canada at the expense of their own people, in order to hold the Canadian trade, which they deem to be of great and yearly-increasing value. These companies fix, not merely the price at which they will sell to wholesale buyers, but also the price at which it must be sold to retail buyers on both sides of the border. Then the alleged coal-tax does not touch the farmers at all, a point that is never alluded to in Free Trade speeches.

Mr. Blake and his friends say in one breath that the "bread-tax" raises the price of the poor man's loaf, and in the next that it does not give the farmer a cent more for his wheat. Until they reconcile these two contradictory statements they scarcely deserve a civil answer. But, even supposing the "poor man's loaf" argument to have had some force years ago, it surely has none now, when our surplus of wheat exported is on the eve of such an enormous expansion as the settlement of the great North-west is sure to give it. The Liverpool price must rule this market—so say Mr. Blake's lieutenants in the House, also the *Globe*. How then can the price here be raised by any duty that we may impose?

When to the former European and American production of refined sugar a new Canadian production of the same article is added, the tendency is to make the article cheaper, not dearer. Increase of supply certainly operates to lower prices, not to raise them. But if the principle of Protection were *thoroughly* carried out as regards sugar, there would not be a cent of revenue from that article at all. Refining or low grades would be admitted free, while on refined sugar the duties would be prohibitory. But revenue necessities forbid, so we are told by those who ought to know. Dare Mr. Blake say that if *he* were in power he could do without any revenue at all from sugar, as they do in England?

A country just beginning to create home manufactures must begin with the coarser fabrics, and progress toward the production of finer goods as best it can. **But it is a huge blunder to suppose that the consumer always pays all the duty.** Here is a case in point. The American duties on cloths for men's wear are about *three times* the Canadian duties. And yet a suit of clothes of ordinary quality can to-day be purchased in Buffalo or Detroit as cheaply as in Toronto. Both the American cities named do a large business in selling clothing to Canadian customers.

**Mr. Blake and his friends have made this much pretty plain, that their strategy is to kill the National Policy by inches. The Canadian people are not likely to give them the chance.**