

depends partly, no doubt, on the climate and soil of France, but much also on the skill of the French workmen. The people of Lancashire have acquired remarkable skill in cotton manufactures; Yorkshire is celebrated for its woollens; Dundee for jute.

Differences such as these have formed the basis and constitute the advantage of Commerce. The products of one country are exchanged for those of another. Goods are paid for in goods.

Of course, there is one drawback in Commerce, namely, that the transport involves a certain expense. It is evident that goods will not be sent from one country to another unless the cost of transport is covered by the difference of price.

Hence, it has always been considered an advantage to improve the means of communication, to construct roads, build harbours, and, more recently, railways, in order to promote Commerce.

But if the Protectionist view is correct, this is a great mistake. Bad roads, the absence of railways, a stormbound coast, the absence of harbours are a merciful dispensation of Providence to protect native industry by keeping out foreign goods.

It follows logically from the extreme Protectionist view that the more unsuited an object was to our climate and soil the greater the advantage of producing it. Tropical fruits, for instance, such as oranges or bananas, would be specially important, because they would provide so much employment for our people!