

## *The Fallacy of "Free Food" Exposed*

Upon what does he base his theory that the only remedy for the high cost of living, is the abolition of what he is pleased to call "Food Taxes"?

### A THEORY WITHOUT BASIS IN FACT

He surely does not base it upon the history of tariff reductions, for the results from these are squarely and unmistakably opposed to such a view. Britain has had Free Trade for more than sixty years, and yet the cost of living in the United Kingdom is going up by leaps and bounds. Holland and Denmark are comparatively low tariff countries, yet they pay more for their food-stuffs than do the people of high protectionist countries like Germany and France. Free Trade in England was followed by a brief wave of prosperity, and then by business depression, and unprecedented poverty. Germany established Protection, and it was followed by an increase of business, an advance in wages, and a raising in the standard of living that has continued until this day.

He surely cannot base it upon the history of fiscal science, for the truth is that the theory that the abolition of the customs tariff will lower prices and better the condition of the masses, has been tried, found wanting, and long ago discarded by practically every nation worthy of the name in Europe.

And is it reasonable to suppose that if the tariff is responsible for the high cost of living, that the economic thinkers of practically every civilized country on the face of the earth would almost unanimously dismiss it as an absolutely negligible factor?

### DEMOCRATIC POLICY OF TARIFF REDUCTION

#### A RIDICULOUS FAILURE

But lest European countries be too far afield for the purpose of argument, let the question be asked, **Why is it, that the**