

tion of this duty was virtually abandoned in 1849, the law itself was not repealed until twenty years later. This law was repealed because England was not able to feed her population from the products of her own soil. And because she could not thus feed them, and because of the comparatively high cost of living, thousands of her skilled artisans and mechanics, and many of her manufacturers also, were emigrating to other countries where the cost of living was cheaper, the celebrated Corn Laws were repealed. It was not until 1874 that the duties upon sugar were abolished, which Act gave a staggering blow to the refining industry there, from which it has never recovered; for whereas at that time there were some twenty immense refining establishments in the city of London alone, to-day there are but five, the business having been transferred principally to Germany. The duties upon grain were removed because England could not feed her people from her own fields; and because it was discovered that she could buy food cheaper than she could raise it; and the duties upon sugar were removed, because she expected to sell sugar cheaper than any other country. In 1879 England levied duties on fifty-three different articles of commerce, in the imposition of which marked protective discrimination was shown in favor of her home manufactures. On over forty per cent. of the total dutiable imports of Great Britain, her tariff discriminates between manufactured and raw material by duties from twenty to forty per cent. higher on the first than on the last. And even to day, while gold and silver bullion is admitted free, a specific duty of \$4.08 per ounce is imposed on gold plate, and thirty-six cents per ounce on silver plate. This is much higher than the Canadian duties on the same articles.

AN OPEN QUESTION.

It is an open question whether England under free trade, such as it is, is as prosperous as she would have become under her protective policy. Some of her statesmen think not. Sir J. B. Byles, in his "Sophisms of Free Trade," published in 1880, says: "No nation has ever adopted the theory and practice of protection to the same extent as England; no nation has, at the same time, enjoyed so extensive and lucrative a foreign trade. For centuries the greatest protection in the world has coincided with the greatest foreign trade in the world. Under a strict and jealous system of protection we have seen the rise of Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Bradford and other cities. Protection has not blunted the invention or superseded the ingenuity of our countrymen. On the contrary, our cottons, our woollens and our hardware were the best in the world. What England might have been without protection from foreign manufacturers, we know not. She might have been what Ireland is now, without protection from English manufacturers. But it is certain that with protection the means of purchase have been created and multiplied in a degree marvellous, and transcending all anticipation."

ABSOLUTE FREE TRADE DOES NOT EXIST.

Free traders endeavor to create the impression that as it is with England of to-day, so it is with all the other nations of Europe—that they have either free trade, pure and simple, or that their tariffs are for revenue only. A recent declaration of the British Chamber of Commerce was to the effect that "in Russia the importations of foreign articles is practically prevented by a scale of duties higher than any in the world."

Austrian duties range from twenty-four to sixty-seven per cent. Henry C. Carey says that the great progress of Germany, from poverty to wealth, in the past thirty five years, "is owing to the great and simple operations of the Zollverein, which is among the most important measures ever adopted in Europe." Frederick List, who labored assiduously to make Germany a great manufacturing nation speaking of the operations of the Zollverein, said: "It affords protection of twenty to sixty per cent. on manufactures," and that it had "wrought a wonderful and excellent change;" and Bismark, in a speech before the German Reichstag, on May 14th, 1882, advocating a protective tariff for his country, alluding to the operations of the protective tariff of the United States, said: "The success of the United States in material development is the most illustrious of modern times. The American nation has not only successfully borne and suppressed the most gigantic war of all history, but immediately disbanded its army, found employment for its soldiers and marines, paid off most of its debt, given labor and homes to all the unemployed of Europe as fast as they could arrive within its territory, and all by a system of taxation so indirect as not to be perceived, much less felt. Because it is my deliberate judgment that the prosperity of America is mainly due to its system of protective laws, I urge that Germany has now reached that point where it is necessary to imitate the tariff system of the United States." Sir Edward Sullivan, an eminent English writer, says: "Protection is as firmly drawn around all the native industries of Europe and America as it was twenty years ago; and generations will elapse before there is any sensible move in the opposite direction. If the English operative classes are to wait till universal free trade over-spreads the world, England must be turned into a Sleepy Hollow, to be awakened every hundred years to see how foreigners are learning their duty to their neighbors as well as to themselves. We are told that free trade principles are spreading; why, in Prussia, Austria, Belgium and Switzerland, the idea of even opening their ports and markets, and inviting competition with their own industrial population, has never yet been mooted. France, Belgium, Switzerland and Prussia have increased materially in wealth and prosperity during the last twenty years; capital has flowed steadily and with increasing rapidity into them; new manufactures have sprung up; existing industries have been increased; trade has flourished; speculation and enterprise have taken the place of apathy and want of confidence. All this has taken place under a system of protection." Two hundred years ago Turkey was a rich and important nation, and she produced large quantities of wool, silk, corn, cotton, coal, iron and copper. But she made a treaty with England by which she bound herself not to charge more than five per cent. duty on imports of English merchandise, and to exempt English vessels from port charges; whereupon, England forbade the exportation of manufacturing machinery, and the emigration of English mechanics to Turkey, and soon the manufacturing industries of that country were destroyed. That unfortunate country, about the only free trade state in Europe, has long since lost her prestige and power.

PROTECTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

It would be difficult to state with exactness the time of the inception of the protective idea among the people of what is