

high universal effort of the nations to prevent their people buying direct from each other, is fast driving the international trade of the world into the hands of the people of Great Britain, where no effort is made to prevent her people taking advantage of the sales the people of other nations are forced to make. The keen competition thus forced on the people of protected countries by their rulers, enables the people of England to purchase the surplus stocks of these nations very cheaply.

Many governments tax their own subjects heavily in order to pay some of their people large bonuses to enable them to sell their surplus products cheaply in the English market. This forced competition among the nations to sell their surplus products in the British market accounts for the low price prevailing the world over for the raw products of the land. The price paid for export will always govern the price paid for home consumption, and that price will be fixed in the country importing the largest quantity, which at present is Great Britain. The bulk of the raw products of the land exported by all countries is now forced into her ports. The wonderful benefits to the people of Great Britain of this effort of Protectionist countries to flood her with cheap goods is very apparent. Since she opened her ports to the world, or, as the Protectionist would put it, since she allowed herself to be flooded by the cheap bonused goods of the pauper labor of the world, she has reduced her own paupers 626,000 and increased her population 14,000,000, multiplied her total wealth four times, the bulk of her international trade ten times, increased her affluent class eight times faster than population, and decreased her criminal class from 1 in 700 to 1 in 2,400 of population. During this period the world's debt to Great Britain multiplied nineteen times, and at present amounts to a greater sum than all the gold and silver coin and bullion at present out of the ground. When this flooding began the world's debt to Great Britain amounted to one-tenth of the coin and bullion in gold and silver in circulation and in stock throughout the world.

Though wealth is increasing in protected countries, it is being concentrated in the hands of the few, and poverty and crime are increasing as well as indebtedness to England.

It will be seen from the foregoing that Protection not only gives an impetus to the increase of the urban class, while it narrows their market at home by discouraging the pursuit of agriculture, but it also narrows the foreign market by discouraging the interchange of commodities with foreign farmers, making progress slow and painful. That progress is possible under such a system is owing to the unceasing efforts of the individuals of the community to provide themselves and their families with food, clothes and shelter. Experience teaches us that such efforts will cause wealth to increase, even amid war and pestilence.

The fact that all nations have a surplus which, if they wish profitably to utilize it, they must sell outside their borders, and that all trade is an exchange of one commodity for another, illustrates the absurdity of ne-