

leader in the movement, by forming a commercial union with a few minor states; the whole population thus included being at first only nineteen millions. The experience of the benefits thus created is so satisfactory, that the best publicists of Europe believe that Prussia thus conferred upon the German people advantages scarcely inferior to those she initiated by the diffusion of education and intelligence. It not only promoted the industry and prosperity of the allied states more than any other measure or sets of measures that their governments could have devised, but it was found that the increase of wealth and population thus arising created an additional demand for foreign products.

Whatever opposition there is to unembarrassed intercourse with Canada proceeds mainly from a fear lest it might revolutionize our tariff or injure our revenue. It is well to remind the alarmists who raise this outcry that such results are no necessary consequence of an American Zollverein. So far as the Zollverein of Germany is a precedent, such apprehensions are entirely groundless. As Prussia was the largest and most populous country when the Zollverein was begun, her tariff was adopted; and owing to increased prosperity and the consequently increased consumption of tax-paying articles, the revenue of Prussia rose about 30 per cent. in the four years next following the amalgamation of the North German and South German States into one grand union on the 1st of January, 1834.

In 1865 the benefits of the German Zollverein had become so well proved and appreciated, that instead of the three original states or duchies it included fourteen, with a population of nearly 36,000,000.

The solidity and cohesive power of the Zollverein were decisively tested in the war which began between Prussia and Austria in 1866. The governments of the North German states included in the union sided with Austria, and it was feared that a dissolution of the Zollverein would ensue, but, says one of the historians of the time, the extraordinary spectacle was presented that while "its component parts were waging open war with each other, its custom-house authorities remained in their functions in the general name and received and divided the revenue moneys in the general name, a spectacle which surprised nobody in Germany, but caused general astonishment abroad as something quite incomprehensible. German nationality, and the inner conserving power which animates the Zollverein received hereby the most glorious confirmation."

After the war of 1866 the German states to the south of the river Main, having preserved their independence, were not under any obligation to renew the Zollverein, but preferred to continue members of it. In 1867 a new Zollverein treaty was concluded between the states of the North German Confederation and the North German states, the scope of which extended to the whole of Germany except Austria.