

The only exports which our labouring population get much out of are:—Machinery £1,338,000, and woollen goods £1,381,000, so that in return for the £20,000,000 worth of manufactured goods we buy from them, we only sell them £3,000,000 worth on which there is any considerable advantage to labour.

A similar instance is the business with Germany. Our imports have grown from £26,874,000 to £28,534,000, but whilst the imports largely consist of goods into which the element of labour enters very considerably, it is different with the exports. Out of the total of exports of £33,331,000, the only amounts in which labour is much interested are:—

	£
Cotton Manufactures	1,762,000
Woollen & Worsted Manufactures	985,000
Machinery, Steam Engines, &c ...	2,091,000
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	£4,788,000

The balance is not of very great value to our labouring population.

As to Belgium, our imports have grown from £17,052,000 in 1894, to £21,534,000 in 1898, being an increase of £4,481,000, whilst our exports to Belgium have only increased from £13,041,000 in 1894 to £13,850,000 in 1898, being an increase of £809,000. Then again, our imports are principally manufactures which bring great advantage to their working classes, and our exports consist chiefly of wool, yarn, coal, &c., whilst the manufactures are as follows:—

	£
Cotton	1,557,000
Machinery, Steam Engines, &c ...	828,000
Woollen Manufactures	982,000
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Total ...	£3,367,000

That, I think, shows the absurdity of our policy of admitting foreign manufactures absolutely free—(cheers). The argument has been advanced by Manchester that the duty is always paid by the consumer. I deny it—(hear, hear). It may be in some instances, but it is not altogether. I will give you an instance. Before the Dingley tariff was imposed in America, we had free wool under the Wilson Bill. Certain wool cost laid down in the United States $17\frac{1}{2}$ to 18 cents, and under the Dingley tariff the duty was 4 cents per lb. A friend of mine said, "Don't speculate too far in that wool; it will be down in 12 to 18 months, and then you will have it at nearly the same price as to-day." That duty was imposed, and in 18 months it could be landed with the duty paid, at the same price