

1781, 1782, 1785 and 1795 to prevent the exportation to foreign countries of machinery and tools used in the manufacture of iron and steel, and to prevent skilled mechanics from leaving England.

For example, an Act in 1785, 25 Geo. III, c. 67: "To prevent, under severe penalties, the enticing of artificers or workmen in the iron and steel manufactures out of the kingdom, and the exportation of any tools used in these branches to any place beyond the seas."

The penalty provided in this Act read:

"If any person or persons shall contract with, entice, persuade, or endeavor to seduce, or encourage, any artificer or workman concerned or employed, or who shall have worked at, or been employed in the iron or steel manufactures in this kingdom, or in making or preparing any tools or utensils for such manufactory, to go out of Great Britain to any parts beyond the seas (except to Ireland), and shall be convicted thereof . . . shall for every artificer so contracted with, enticed, persuaded, encouraged or seduced, or attempted so to be, forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, and shall be committed to the common gaol . . . there to remain without bail or mainprize for the space of twelve calendar months, and until such forfeiture shall be paid, and in case of a subsequent offence of the same kind, the person or persons so again offending shall upon a like conviction, forfeit and pay for every person so contracted with, enticed, persuaded, encouraged, or seduced, or attempted so to be, the sum of one thousand pounds . . . and shall be committed to the common gaol, as aforesaid, there to remain without bail or mainprize for and during the term of two years, and until such forfeiture shall be paid."

In addition to these restrictive measures, a glance at the protection afforded to the British manufacturers of iron from 1782 to the close of 1825, will demonstrate to Canadians the fact that England owes her greatness in the Iron Industry very largely indeed to the protection granted to her native industries in the early years of the trade.

Quoting from Scrivenor's History of the Iron Trade:

"From 1782 to 1795 the duty on foreign bars was £2 16 2 per ton. It rose to £3 4 7 in 1797. From 1798 to 1802 it was £3 15 5. In two years it had got to £4 17 1, and from 1806 to 1808 it stood at £5 7 5¼d. In the three years between 1809