

the retention of this very small fraction of American trade by the Lancashire manufacturer is due solely to his exceptional ability as a manufacturer, the obvious inference being that British manufacturers who do not possess such exceptional ability will not be able to stand up against American competition in the British market, to say nothing of the fearful loss of the American market. According to free trade logic, Britain, having free trade should be able to exclude from her markets the manufactured products of France, Germany, Switzerland and the United States; and the inability to do so is attributed to cheaper labor in these countries, except in the latter. But the United States has a much higher tariff than either the other countries named, and labor there is better paid than even in Britain. Then how and why is it that American fabrics of a certain description are driving similar British fabrics out of the British market? Protection does it.

Protection does it in this way. We know that before protection prevailed in the United States manufacturing industries were not in a flourishing condition there. Consumers looked to Britain for almost every manufactured article they required; and under the depression of the circumstance American manufacturers had little heart and little encouragement to attempt what they felt could not be a successful competition with their foreign rivals. This was in the days of Britain's supremacy a manufacturing nation. But when American protection became a fixed fact and an unalterable policy, the home market was placed in the virtual control of home enterprises, and then it was that competition among American manufacturers quickly reduced prices. In the struggle to survive the effects of this fierce competition American inventive ingenuity became excited and aroused, resulting in the invention of labor saving machinery and appliances that made it possible for the American workmen, employing American machinery, without toiling harder or more hours than was required of British workmen, to turn out much larger quantities of goods; and it is safe to assert that to protection is due in very large part the extraordinary talent that American mechanics have shown in inventing and utilizing labor saving devices. British, French, German, Swiss and other foreign manufacturers were quick to observe the effects of this remarkable ingenuity on the part of American mechanics. They understood, of course, that if they hoped to compete with America in the manufacture of merchandise

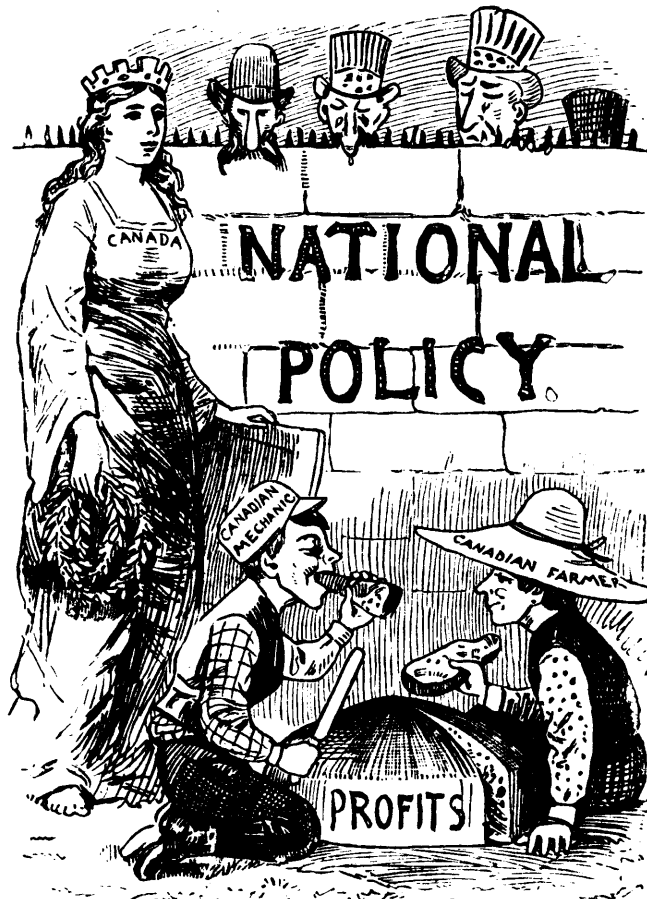
they must cheapen the cost of production. But how was this cheapening to be reached? The Americans had accomplished it by inventing quick-acting labor saving machinery; but here these foreigners faced a difficulty they could not possibly surmount—they were seemingly incapable of exercising such inventive talent as had characterized their American rivals; and the only other way open for them to cheapen production was to cheapen labor. And this is the secret, and herein lies the explanation of the great question that is now agitating Britain. France, Germany and Switzerland are in a large measure shut out of the American market by the American

tariff, but Britain offers a compensating field for them, and they are availing themselves of it, thanks to the fiscal policy of the country which advocates free trade with all the world. France, Germany and Switzerland can do what Britain cannot do—they can depress the wages of their laboring classes to a point where the prolongation of life is barely possible, and under this depression they can fill the British market with their manufactured products. Britain cannot do this—she cannot depress the wages of her working classes to a point where the products of their labor can, because of their cheapness shut out the products of the Continental States. And alas for the consistency of the free trade theory, the only thing left for Britain to do is to adopt protection.

Mr. Cobden and his adherents evidently thought that Britain, because of the great start she had in the successful establishment of industrial pursuits over all the rest of the world, would be able to continue that supremacy, the idea

being that all other nations would of necessity be producers of raw materials only which would be manufactured in England and returned to the consumers. As long as this situation prevailed free trade was a most excellent thing for Britain and British manufacturers. Of course she would impose no obstacles to the free admission of raw materials, and she desired that all other nations should oppose no obstacles to the free admission into their ports of British manufactured goods. But the whirligig of time brings some remarkable changes. Britain finds that other nations can manufacture cheaper than she can; that they do not have so much raw materials to send to her, nor do they desire so much of her manufactured goods; and she also finds that these nations are flooding her markets with their manufactured products.

Alas for Free Trade! Protection will be the death of it.



CANADA'S NATIONAL POLICY PIE:—THE BOYS WILL HAVE IT.