

is taxed upon its fruits, but the South of Europe must not tax English machinery and cutlery; the United States is taxed upon her tobacco, whisky, alcohol, varnish, etc., but the United States must not tax English hardware, salt, woolen goods, linen, etc. All the world must be taxed to support the British government, but all the world must maintain its own police regulations and pay its debts as best it can. It is all right, for instance, for the tobacco-growers of the United States to be taxed to help pay the interest on the British national debt; but it is all wrong for British manufacturers, when they enter our markets, to be taxed to help pay the interest on *our* debt.

British theoretical free trade means the free exchange of commodities between nations. It nowhere exists: it is a myth. The only real free trade known to civilized nations is that which governs the exchanges between the people of the same country. It is the only kind of free trade that, in the nature of things, ever can exist; for each nation must care for its own interests, and these interests are never identical with the interests of other nations. Between the different sections of the United States, for instance, all trade is absolutely free; while all the sections are alike protected against foreign industrial assailants, come they in what guise they may. Great Britain imposes duties upon those commodities entering her ports which it suits her to tax, and upon those which it suits her to admit free of duty she imposes no duty. Yet she asks other nations not to impose duties upon such of her products as seek their markets. This is not free trade, nor the shadow of it. It is not *fair* trade. It is the policy that gives a glass bead in exchange for a nugget of gold, or an iron hoop for a handful of precious gems.—
From The American Iron Trade in 1876.

THE FARMERS AND PROTECTION.

We would not ignore the fact that the farmer's home market is always his best market; but, as he annually relies upon foreign markets to take a portion of his surplus crops, he should know that protection opposes no obstacles to his wishes. It should be remembered, too, that the wheat and corn and other farm products which are sold at home or shipped abroad have cost the farmer less labor in their production and transportation during the last fifteen years of protection than in preceding years, for he has had the use of improved machinery and of a wide-reaching railway system, both of which have been largely created by the protective policy.