

are, therefore, qualified to compete in manufacturing or any other pursuit with any country and without any protection.

With respect to the first proposition, constant reference is made to the fact that Free Trade England is the Queen of Commerce, especially foreign commerce, and it is argued that she has attained to and maintains this position through the adoption and continuance of its Free Trade policy. While admitting the pre-eminence of England in this respect, and while as sincerely desirous as any free trader can be that the mother country may long retain its supremacy, the Manufacturer believes that this supremacy can only be preserved by a reversal or, at any rate, by a considerable modification of its present trade policy. It is not sufficient for the vindication of Free Trade to show that England still enjoys the largest foreign commerce of any country in the world, but it is necessary to show that this commerce is increasing in as rapid proportion as is the foreign trade of competing countries where the policy of protection is in operation. In illustration of this point the following comparisons are taken from page CIV. of the Commerce and Navigation of the United States for 1892:—

ANNUAL AVERAGES.

General Imports.	United Kingdom. Dollars.	Germany. Dollars.	France. Dollars.	United States. Dollars.	Spain. Dollars.
Ten years, 1871-1880.	1,807,296,285	1,115,361,110	926,772,965	514,940,861	97,716,373
1881-1890.	1,920,369,568	1,131,369,628	1,048,537,361	701,862,129	153,513,647
Increase.....	112,983,283	15,988,518	121,764,396	186,921,268	55,797,274
Percent. of increase	6.26	1.18	11.91	29.03	37.06
General Exports.					
Ten years, 1871-1880.	1,352,023,236	891,124,913	861,149,443	618,067,216	97,651,365
1881-1890.	1,411,237,067	1,063,234,936	968,137,375	763,963,132	141,973,053
Increase.....	59,213,831	172,110,023	107,087,932	145,895,916	44,321,688
Percent. of increase	4.32	21.75	12.32	23.60	45.35
General Imports and Exports.					
Ten years, 1871-1880.	3,159,319,521	2,006,486,023	1,787,922,408	1,132,998,077	195,367,738
1881-1890.	3,331,606,635	2,194,604,564	1,916,674,736	1,465,825,261	295,486,700
Increase.....	172,287,113	188,118,541	128,752,328	332,827,184	100,118,962
Percent. of increase	5.30	10.29	6.68	26.15	52.99

* Average of nine years, 1872-1880 inclusive.

It is seen that the average increased per centage in the United Kingdom and France was about the same; as compared with Germany the aggregate average yearly increase was about the same, but the per centage of increase in the United Kingdom was only 6.50, as compared with 10.29 in Germany; in the case of the United States the aggregate increase was about 50 per cent. greater than in the United Kingdom, and the percentage of increase was over four times larger in the former than in the latter; in the case of Spain the percentage of increase was eight times greater than that of Great Britain. The population of the United Kingdom in 1880-81 was 34,788,000; in 1890-91, 37,795,000; the increase being 8.64 per cent., as compared with 6.50 per cent. increase in foreign commerce, showing that the latter did not increase in as large proportion as the former. Does this afford any convincing evidence of the virtue of its Free Trade policy? As against this small and unsatisfactory increase in the ten years' foreign commerce of the United Kingdom there is the weighty effect of the alarming depreciation in the annual value of its grain, animal and other farm products caused by its Free Trade policy. Strongly imbued with Free Trade doctrines as the great majority of the people of England have been, stubborn facts are rapidly undermining this faith, and

in many and quite unexpected quarters, agitation has sprung up in favor of a thorough investigation of the present position under which England admits to its markets, duty free, the merchandise of countries which are every year placing greater duties and restrictions on the imports of English goods. Hence, has arisen the increasing popularity of the sentiment of Imperial unity and preferential trade with all British Colonies.

Coming home to the foreign commerce of Canada, it will be found that the theory of the free traders is thoroughly refuted. So far from the policy of protection having proved an impediment to this branch of our trade, it has proved a mighty stimulus. The Trade and Navigation Returns show that the average annual value of the exports and imports of the Dominion during the five protection years 1889-90 to 1894-95, over that of the five years of revenue tariff, 1874-75 to 1878-79, increased 33.85 per cent.; and this in the face of the enormous expansion in home manufactures. Every new or extending industry creates a demand for foreign goods, and adds to the quantity and value of our exports.

A kindred fallacy to that with respect to foreign commerce is the theory that high duties are destructive to the revenue from customs. Here again the Trade and Navigation tables completely refute this contention. The average annual revenue from customs duties during the five years of revenue tariff, 1874-75 to 1878-79, was a little over \$13,300,000; during the five years of protective tariff ending 1894-95, the average was nearly \$20,500,000.

With respect to the second proposition that protection necessarily imposes high prices on consumers. The Trade and Navigation Returns, for the year ending June 30, 1895, show that the Dominion imported during that year of manufactured goods:—

From	Value.
Great Britain.....	\$27,912,523
United States.....	22,488,401

In metals of all kinds and manufactures therefrom, general hardware, oils, manufactures of wood, miscellaneous articles other than fancy dry goods, gutta percha, rubber and leather goods, books and stationery, drugs, dyes and chemicals, we imported much more largely from protective United States than from free trade Great Britain. In many of these classes nearly the whole of our imports came from Great Britain only a few years ago. Taking price and quality together it is evident that in the above articles Canadian buyers obtained better value in the protectionist country than they could in the free trade one. What then becomes of the contention that protection means dear goods? The following statements with reference to the iron trade of the United States and Great Britain illustrate what protection may accomplish, both as to expansion of trade and prices of products. The statements are taken from *The Manufacturer*, published in Philadelphia.

Last week, in the columns of this journal, we showed how the United States, a few years ago far behind Great Britain as a producer of pig-iron, has now overtaken that country, and become the foremost among the nations manufacturing that article. The figures which represent the forward movement of this country as a producer of steel are equally remarkable. England had a long lead at the beginning of the race, but by 1885 the production of Bessemer ingots was proportioned between the two countries as follows:—