

The Failure of Protection

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foreign goods, and the only way to increase the revenue from that source is to encourage importations of dutiable goods.

As an illustration of how protection affects revenue and cost of goods, take the case of the boot and shoe industry of which the Census Bureau gives the following information for the census year 1910:

"Value of manufactured products, \$33,987,248; number of employees, 17,227; paid salaries and wages, \$7,698,333."

Average wage per employee, \$446 per annum or \$1.50 per day—not a very attractive wage, about one-half what an ordinary day laborer receives in Winnipeg.

For the year ending March 30, 1911, Canada imported \$2,045,835 of boots and shoes, on which was paid \$385,996.71 duty. Of this importation \$292,014 was from Britain, duty paid \$59,999.52—the balance, \$1,742,699, from United States, duty \$322,809.70—equal to 30 per cent. Our imports from the States were six times as much as from Britain. The value of home product is given at \$33,987,248, of which \$60,935 worth was exported—over half going to the United States; presumably the balance was consumed in Canada.

Assuming that manufacturers add the full extent of their protection to the selling price of their product when sold in the home market, the people of Canada paid an account of 30 per cent. protection on boots and shoes last census year:

To the government custom duties \$505,996.71
To manufacturers, after deducting the exports... 10,177,893.90

Total \$10,763,890.61
The boot and shoe manufacturers paid in wages and salaries 7,698,330.00

Leaving a balance of... \$3,065,560.61
Protection Exceeded Total Wages

The people of Canada paid on account of protection to the boot and shoe industry more than the total wages and salaries paid to the employees of the boot and shoe manufacturers during

The consumer pays \$3.90 for boots under protection that he could get for \$3.00 under Free Trade—no one but the manufacturer gets the benefit of difference.

Three dollars a day under Free Trade is as good as \$3.90 under protection in the purchasing of boots for a wage earner.

A farmer selling wheat at 75 cents could secure a pair of boots under Free Trade for 4 bushels. He has to give 5 1-5 bushels under protection. In other words, every fifth bushel goes to the manufacturer. The boot and shoe industry added a mere trifle to the export business of Canada that year. It added \$585,000 to the revenue. It taxed the people over ten million dollars for this in support of the industry.

Other Industrial Rake-offs

Cotton goods manufactured, \$24,584,931; cotton goods entered for home consumption, \$21,118,954, making a total of \$45,703,885 consumed in Canada. Government collected \$4,774,320.31 in duty—a trifle over 22 1/2%—which the people paid to the revenue, and on top of that \$5,400,000 to the manufacturers. This industry exported \$217,594, which was their contribution to our volume of export that year. Agricultural implements manufactured were worth \$20,722,722, and added to our volume of export \$5,921,818. The farmers paid the government \$901,133.70 in duty and the manufacturers a tax of \$2,960,180.80. The ethics of modern business is to get all you can for what you have to sell, and I assume the manufacturers take advantage of the full extent of their protection.

Western farmers import a considerable quantity of farm implements from the United States, which, after paying duty, can be delivered on the farm cheaper than Canadian goods. The following list is an example of the duty paid:

16-inch sulky plow	\$7.28
12-inch gang plow	11.00
14-inch walking plow	2.48
20-inch D. D. drill	20.40
16x16 disc harrow with tongue truck	7.12
31x10 wagon	22.53
No. 106 top buggy	21.25
Mower, 5 ft.	3.90
Rake, 10 ft.	4.56
70-bushel manure spreader	17.60



By courtesy of the Graphist, London, Eng. Holding the road to Riga, in the eastern theatre of war.

the census year. If they added only two-thirds of their protection the people paid their wage bill.

The wholesaler who imports goods adds to the invoice price the cost of his goods delivered in his warehouse, eliminating all cost but custom duties out of our calculation in the case of boots and shoes. A wholesaler imports boots involved him at \$2.00.

	Under Protec- tion	Under Free Trade
Invoice price	\$2.00	\$2.00
Duty, at 30%	.60	—
	\$2.60	—
Add 20% profit	.52	.40
Selling price to retailer	\$3.12	\$2.40
Retailer adds 25% profit	.78	.60
Sells to consumer	\$3.90	\$3.00

Those conditions resulted in not only retarding progress in increased development but are also driving people off the land. According to the Dominion census of 1911, the acreage under field crop in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1900 was 3,600,119 acres. This crop area was increased in the decade ending 1911 to 17,677,091 acres. In the four years 1908-1911, when the growth of the prairie provinces was at its height, the acreage under crop increased 4,300,000—nearly 50 per cent. The next three years showed an increase of less than 55,000 acres. It is estimated that upwards of 3,000,000 acres of land was brought under cultivation in 1910 and a like amount in 1911, since which very little land was broken until last summer. Further, this arrest of progress in development of farm operations was in the face of the fact that according to immigration off-

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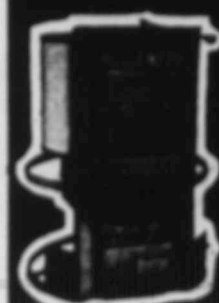
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