

Industrial classes; their progress and profits, however, were not large until the protective tariff of 1879 came into force. Then a great extension of cotton, woolen and knitting mills took place. The Government were actuated by a genuine desire to build up Canadian industries, but as they were not experts in the cost of production, or of the values of the articles to be protected, they had to leave that to such of their friends as they considered most competent to judge. Experience showed that following too much on the lines of the United States tariff, many of the duties were made so high that the mills, from having been poor paying concerns, became very profitable, and they were then so enlarged and increased that production soon exceeded consumption, and internal competition forced prices down below remunerative rates.

THE FISCAL POLICIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA REVIEWED.

Those, of course, who attribute all of England's progress to free trade, forgetting the impetus given to it by, first of all, the coming into the country of textile workers expelled from France, Flanders, etc., for their religion; then the immense deposits of her coal and iron in proximity to one another; her unrivalled number of seaports; her religious freedom, favorable to the development of thought; the inventions of Watt, Stephenson, Arkwright, Hargreaves, Cartwright and others, which had given her the foremost position as a manufacturing country prior to 1851, when she exhibited to the world her immense superiority acquired before she adopted free trade, will perhaps think that as Britain has prospered under it, so should every other country. But there is the financial question which needs attention.

Britain has come to be the creditor nation and mortgagee of most other countries—the interest annually accruing to her from outside sources being variously estimated at £80,000,000 to £100,000,000. By owning about 60 per cent. of the world's tonnage she probably receives as much more for freight, passengers, and ships sold abroad. Then there is the enormous amount expended by people from every nation under the sun coming to her for business or pleasure; and it is not wide of the mark to say that £250,000,000 sterling comes to the "tight little island," which is not noted in the Board of Trade returns, and which therefore enables her to buy £100,000,000 or £150,000,000 a year more than she sells. Her merchants and manufacturers can also obtain money for much less than the colonists, and make a profit on the difference alone. With the colonies, or any other debtor country, the matter is reversed; they are debtors, mortgagors, and have to send the interest, freights, etc., abroad, instead of having them come in. This they can only do by exports of produce or of gold, and, as production is the source of all wealth, any tariff that increases production in a legitimate manner, and which does not impose a greater tax on goods than the amount of wages that would be paid out in the country if the goods were manufactured there, does not result in loss to the nation, and increases the amount of money in circulation, and therefore the purchasing power of those employed. This is the crux of the whole question, and further it decreases the indebtedness abroad, and helps forward the time when Canada or any such placed country will get out of its foreign obligations, pay off its mortgages, and be, like Britain, able to live largely on its own capital and interest.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF AFFAIRS.

Coming now to the present condition of things—although much the greater part of cotton goods consumed is made in Canada, nearly all the flannels, blankets and heavy tweeds, most of the lower-priced hosiery, and nearly all the knitted underwear, are also of Canadian make; while the ready-made clothing, mantles, shirts and collars, ladies' underwear, and even ties, umbrellas and parasols, made in the country, now form by far the largest part. The value of imported drapery, speaking broadly, not taking note of particular years, has also increased, thus proving that, not only has

there been a steady increase of population, but also of purchasing power, no doubt helped by increased employment in the various industries.

The general improved and more affluent position of the people is also best proved by the large increase in the two last decades of miles of railway operated and their receipts, the deposits in the savings and other banks, and the general comforts and luxuries which the people have in their homes. Of late years also, the growth of large departmental retail stores has been rapid, and the volume of business done by the general wholesale houses has decreased. Whether a departmental store can secure as good buying, as profitable selling, and as careful personal supervision from the heads of the departments, without it costing them as much as if those head men were in business for themselves, and whether specialty stores will not re-assert themselves, are questions not yet solved in Canada.

SPECIALISING WHOLESALE HOUSES.

But the wholesale trade is drifting into specialties—woolen houses, gents' furnishing houses, specialties in dress-goods, etc., etc., seem to be the coming feature, for as the detail increases, so it becomes more necessary to concentrate attention on fewer lines. Over four years ago the Merchants' Dyeing and Finishing Co. was established in Toronto for the purpose of dyeing and finishing British, French, and German dress goods imported in the grey or unfinished state. They can to-day successfully compete with imported goods in color, dye, and finish, and any one can see the advantage of being able to produce on the spot any color demanded by Dame Fashion in ten or fourteen days, instead of having to wait six or eight weeks to get it from Europe. Every draper will know that, even if an article costs him 5 per cent. more, he can make more money if he can get it every week as he wants it, than by having to wait two months every time he sends an order. Changes of taste and fashion are so rapid that quick delivery is quite as important, if not more so, than price. There will always be room for the wholesaler if he adapts himself to the changing currents through which trade flows—and we fully believe that the current is for specialties. For a long time after 1875-79, when the demand for alpacas and lustres had reached its height, the purchases of Bradford goods decreased and of foreign goods increased; but during the last two or three years Bradford seems to be coming to the front again, and when all the youths educated in the Bradford Technical College, in which Sir Henry Mitchell has always taken so deep an interest, get into the various mills, designing-rooms, dye-houses, etc., this tendency will probably become more marked. Still, it is no doubt a fact that many kinds of goods, once imported exclusively from Britain, are now either largely made in Canada or imported from the Continent. But John Bull is very good-natured; he lets everybody kick at him, lends them money, shows them all how he does things, sends them machines to make things as well as he can and seems to get fat and rich with it all. Certainly he is the great coloniser of the world and a jolly good fellow, so it is no wonder that we like him and intend always to live under his flag, for, whether at home or abroad, the true Englishman must say, "England, with all thy faults, I love thee still." —London Drapers' Record.

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