

Great Britain's Free Import Policy

"On the back of Free-trade England, we dared to grasp at the mastery of the world."

These are the scornful words by which a German economist since 1910 triumphantly showed how Germany had climbed to power.

Later in November, 1914, a loyal German living in Canada said with bitter regret: "Why did my country force this war? If she had only waited ten years we would have controlled the world's markets and conquered England commercially."

Up to 1914 trade statistics prove that even though a country be rich in ships, manufactures and raw materials, it cannot long control the world's trade, if it leaves the home market open to rivals. Towards the close of the last century both the United States and Germany imposed heavy duties so as to retain their home markets for their own people. In a few years they turned their attention to the open British market with the following success:

Yearly average imports into United Kingdom wholly or mainly manufactured:

1870-74.....	£ 55,200,000
1905-09.....	148,600,000

Increase of nearly 170 per cent.

Yearly average exports of same from United Kingdom:

1870-74.....	£ 210,100,000
1905-09.....	294,000,000

An increase of 40 per cent.

During the period from 1898, after the imposition of high protective duties, up to 1910, the United States export of completed manufactures rose from £223,000,000 in 1898, to £499,000,000 in 1910, or an increase of 124 per cent.

Germany likewise increased from £117,800,000 in 1898 to £245,000,000 in 1910, or 108 per cent. The figures of 1910