

ture of our raw products requires no protection from our ocean trade, and our forest wealth is accumulated capital, dormant. Our total exports are \$119,000,000 for 1896-1897, of which manufacturers contribute \$9,500,000. Out of this export of \$9,500,000 of manufactured goods, the seven following industries make a total of nearly seven million dollars, namely: Agricultural implements (including bicycles), \$1,000,000; cottons, \$1,000,000; leather, \$1,500,000; spirits, \$500,000; musical instruments, \$400,000; manufactures of woodenware, doors and sashes, including pulp, etc., \$1,648,000; iron and steel, \$500,000. That exporting power is an evidence that those articles can hold their own abroad, and if stimulated by free imports from Great Britain, they would be strengthened in their power to contribute to the national wealth, represented by their exports. Free iron would undoubtedly stimulate the iron and implement trade, and the extent our manufacturers are able to hold their own abroad, to that extent they can hold their own in our own markets, so long as they are protected from slaughtering by our neighbours. It stands to reason that if our manufacturers can compete abroad with ocean freights against them, they can compete successfully at home with power of distribution in their favour. Placing everything within their reach that they require to manufacture with on the most favourable terms, that power to compete must be immensely strengthened. The scope of Canadian manufacturing energy is limited within a ring-fence and for a small population; it must have room to expand. That expansion cannot be secured by waiting for other countries to open their markets, but it can be secured by showing an energy and independence that will force its way through barriers, not aided by legislation, which is guided by a silent influence of monopoly, but through the absence of any legislation of a restrictive character. Our present system is creating an autocracy for our future population that will submerge that manly independence that was undoubtedly the characteristic of our Canadian forefathers. Public opinion to-day does not count to the extent it should in the government of the country. It is the power of monopoly exerted by silent influences which do not come to the surface. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. The popular cry of "Canada for Canadians" is often made to

do duty for patriotism by fostering the idea that opening our doors for the trade of Great Britain to pass freely through our borders, is going to rob Canadians of their patrimony, and banish employment. Opening our door for the trade of Great Britain will multiply employment. By doing that we merely exchange a restricted market for an enlarged and practically unlimited one, which our magnificent coast-line brings to our doors, and which we at present close out by legislation. That faith in a policy that advocates the opening of our doors to nations that will not open theirs to us, especially when they are neighbours, has not yet reached Canadian hearts, and in their dealings with those nations Canadians act on the defensive. The question of the effect, consequent upon our increased exports and imports with Great Britain, upon freedom of exchange both ways, is another matter; and Canadians can more easily realize the benefit in that case of an even exchange as of mutual advantage. The fact that other nations do not realize the benefit has nothing to do with us; we have to exert our intelligence and liberty of action to understand its advantages. We are a large country with a sparse population; we are a prolific race, but we cannot absorb our growing manhood, and they sell their labour in the country to the south, where careful training and a vigorous frame tell in every walk. The restrictive force of monopoly in all its phases engendered by legislation limits our power of expansion, and impoverishes those industries engaged in the production of our raw materials and food products, which require no protective legislation for themselves, but which have to bear the cost of the protective legislation imposed upon their daily necessities. The admission of British trade in exchange for Canadian trade upon the same basis, on the principle of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, will remove the restrictive force, expand our trade, develop our power to produce our raw materials, which is Canadian wealth, and strengthen our manufacturing power.

In referring to our imports into the country, the editor of the *Canadian Manufacturer* calls them the importer's tax, but they are certainly not a tax upon the production of raw materials, when we admit the purchaser of those raw materials to our markets upon the same terms that he