

INTRODUCTION

For twenty-two years before the war, my work as a newspaper correspondent brought me much into contact with tariff politics in the United States and Canada. It also made it incumbent on me to acquaint myself with the tariff histories, and with the industrial development and economy of both these countries.

Tariffs, as I realized at the time the Wilson act of 1894 was before congress, were not understandable without some knowledge of the general economy of the industries to which they are applied.

Few newspaper correspondents can have been in attendance at more revisions of protectionist tariffs than has been my fortune. I have attended prolonged tariff hearings at Washington, and tariff hearings in all the centres of industry in Canada from the great lakes to the Atlantic ocean.

I have, moreover, had what I am inclined to regard as exceptional opportunities of observing the working of protectionist systems in their political, industrial, and social aspects; and also of realizing to what class the advantages of protection accrue, and on whom fall the burdens of protectionist tariffs.

My concern in this book is with the protectionist or national policy system of the Dominion of Canada; and, to a small degree, also with the old commercial system of the British Empire; with the fiscal system of the United Kingdom from