

manufactured articles, and Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth were protectionists of the most pronounced type. English artisans learned well the lessons taught them by the skilled workmen of Belgium and Flanders. Thus we find Henry VIII. summarily expelling thousands of them from England, and Elizabeth taking steps to destroy the power of the Hanseatic League which practically controlled the commerce of England.

From the reign of Queen Elizabeth our historians date the commercial prosperity of England, and in no small degree was the progress in the mechanical arts during her reign due to the influx of Huguenots from France, and miners and smelters from Germany. By the beginning of the seventeenth century English manufactures were in the markets of the world and English ship-builders and sailors were in employment. This branch of industry was founded firmly by Cromwell's navigation acts, under which goods imported in English bottoms paid less duty than the same goods imported in foreign bottoms, and colonial products were forbidden to be brought to England except in English ships. These acts were subsequently supplemented, and with particular efficiency in the time of Charles II. In 1849 the Acts were much modified, but the end had been already accomplished and the bonus system, extending even to present years, secures to England supremacy on the seas.

Many curious extracts may be made from the ancient tariff laws. In Elizabeth's reign it was enacted that the export of live sheep was punishable by forfeiture of goods and a year's imprisonment for the first offence, and the cutting off of the left hand for the second offence, while a third offence was punishable by death. The prohibition of the export of wool, sheep, and fuller's clay was not repealed till the present century. In the reign of Charles II. and William III. export of these articles was punishable by confiscation of the ship and cargo and three year's imprisonment of the master and all the mariners. In the reign of George I. a statute was enacted against the destruction of home manufactures by inducing artisans to go abroad. The first offence was penalized in £100 fine and three months in prison. In the second offence the fine was discretionary and imprisonment was for one year. Artisans who left Britain and did not return within six months after being warned by the British ambassador were declared aliens and their lands and goods were forfeit. In the reign of George II. a first offence under this act meant £500 fine and twelve months' imprisonment, and a second offence £1,000 and two years' imprisonment. George III. increased the stringency of these laws and fixed a penalty of £200 and forfeiture for the export of tools or utensils used in manufacturing silk, linen, or wool (except wool cards to North America); £100 penalty for the captain of a ship or a custom's officer implicated, and £200 for collecting such tools and utensils for export. Practically the same regulation was re-enacted in 1825 and again in 1833, when it held good till 1845.

In the reign of William III. the export of knitting machines was prohibited. In 1782 engraved copper plates and blocks were also stopped from export, and inducing a workman employed in calico printing to leave the country was made an offence punishable by £500 fine and a year in prison. These regulations of artisans were not entirely abolished till 1825. The colonies were even more severely

dealt with and Great Britain attempted to prevent them from establishing industries that England carried on, or was able to supply them with the products of. It would not be believed the extent to which England went in this, were not the laws open to be read upon the old-time statute book of the mother land. High duties and complete prohibition were the rule and the rule was rigidly enforced. To prohibited importation was frequently added a bounty on goods exported. Iron, brass, copper, silk and leather manufactures and hats were common objects of prohibition, and the rates of tariff ran from twenty to seventy-five per cent.

In 1842. the abandonment of the tariff began. Protective duties on many foreign products were retained till 1859. Silks, boots and shoes, and gloves were protected till 1860, timber till 1866, and sugar till 1874. Duties are to-day imposed on beer and spirits. With less than a half century of free trade Great Britain is losing her hold, and her great thinkers are already casting about for some means of maintaining the status she reached supreme in the world of commerce. Five hundred years of the strongest protection in the history of a world of protected countries placed her in the pre-eminent position, the credit for which is claimed by free traders for the few years of free trade. The principle of protection to her own industries is the cornerstone of British diplomacy all over the world to-day. There is many an indirect way of protecting her manufactures and she has made good use of them all, but every day strengthens the proof that a tariff is the best protective engine, and it is but a matter of a short time until the British protective system will be extended into a harmonious tariff wall about the whole Empire.

SIR WILFRID'S POLICY.

The British Trade Journal, in its issue just to hand, deals with Sir Wilfrid Laurier's preferential trade policy, and its cause and effect. The Journal's suggestion is so apt that we give it here in full:—

New South Wales is likely to fall in line with Canada, as well as New Zealand in the matter of preferential treatment for British manufactures, for it appears from the financial statement lately made in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, by Mr. G. H. Reid, the Premier and Colonial Treasurer, that he has the warmest sympathy with the action of Canada in lowering her duties in the interests of the productions of other parts of the British Empire which treat her well; and he thinks the colonies, which maintain high tariffs, may well make a similar distinction in favor of the Mother Country. Mr. Reid, as a man of business, must see the enormous advantage which a position such as that of Canada confers upon a colony when it wishes to negotiate treaties with countries whose tariffs are opposed to the admission of colonial produce. Had New South Wales a double-barrelled tariff under which British manufactures came in at lower duties than those from Germany, how powerful a lever it would have ready to hand to force down the duties in Germany on commodities from New South Wales.

It is upon this line that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is working in his negotiations with the United States. We have all along suspected that his preferential tariff scheme was prompted, as much by the idea of obtaining a weapon wherewith to obtain concessions from Washington, as by the ideally patriotic sentiments to which he gave expression as regards the Mother Country; and we shall be surprised if he does not use his new powers, resulting from the denunciation of the Belgian and German treaties, with remarkable effect in obtaining better