

English saws, with the name of the maker marked upon them, sold in our markets at prices ranging from \$15.75 to \$19 a dozen. Mr. Disston was obliged to sell his saws for less money, as his goods were unknown, while the English saws had a reputation; but after the Disston saw became known and its reputation was established the English saws were gradually driven out of our markets and prices were still further reduced to consumers. In 1876 Henry Disston & Sons are sending saws to *England*, warranted equal to the best saws made in that country, and selling them at \$10.50 a dozen, fully fifty per cent. less than the price Englishmen charged us in 1840. When Mr. Disston commenced business, inferior saws of foreign manufacture were sold in this country at \$4.50 a dozen, and he could not make saws for less than \$7 a dozen, but now Henry Disston & Sons ship common saws to South America at \$4.50. The exports of their goods in 1875 amounted to fully \$100,000. But for protection, Henry Disston and his sons never would have been in a position to compete successfully in this country with foreign makers of saws; they never would have been able to find a market in other lands in one year for \$100,000 worth of their products; this country never would have had as cheap saws as are now supplied to it; and all the benefits resulting from the employment of the labor of the country in the manufacture of saws never would have had an existence. The Messrs. Disston make their own steel.

Before axes were made in this country, except by country blacksmiths, English axes cost our farmers and others from \$2 to \$4 each. By the tariff of 1828 a protective duty of 35 per cent. was levied upon imported axes. Under this protection the Collins Company, of Hartford, introduced labor-saving machinery, much of which was invented, patented, and constructed by themselves. In 1836 foreign and home-made axes were selling side by side, in the American market, at \$15 to \$16 per dozen, at which time foreign producers withdrew their competition, abandoning the entire market to American manufacturers. Then home rivalry and improved methods continued the decline in prices. Axes were selling, in 1838, at \$13 to \$15.25 per dozen; in 1840, at \$13 to \$14; in 1843, at \$11 to \$12; in 1845, at \$10.50 to \$11; in 1849, at \$8 to \$10. In 1876 the price of the best American axes in the market is \$9.50 per dozen in currency, and the country *exports* large quantities to foreign markets. English writers admit the superior excellence of American axes. The Collins Company makes its own steel, and a letter from the company now before us claims that it is "*better*