

Supply—Trade and Commerce

I think that when we accepted—and I think recklessly—the idea that we could live in a world where there would be non-discrimination we did an injustice to ourselves intellectually. Anyone who would suppose that, after more than a century of admirable success in building up a powerful economy by means of discrimination, the United States would depart from that proven policy in order to give us a chance to sell goods in her market, must be either unrealistic, or perhaps just a little off colour. Unfortunately the government and the opposition, with the exception of the Social Credit party, were all off colour on that occasion; because they supposed that the United States would actually lower tariffs on commodities entering her country, and allow various goods to compete with her production. They supposed that.

Well, common sense, as well as all American history, would contradict any such possibility. There are those who seem to think the United States ought to let Canadian cheese come into that country to compete with United States cheese. Well, will someone who thinks he knows tell us how on earth it could benefit the United States to let Canadian cheese come in for her people to use, and allow her own cheese producers to be destroyed thereby? Can anyone see how that could possibly help the United States? The United States' chief concern is to look after the people of the United States, is it not? If the United States brought down her tariff on every kind of goods the nations producing those goods desired that she should, it would not be more than fifty years until the United States would be back in the position of a purely primary producing area, and would be one of the most hopeless and helpless nations on earth. Because there is hardly a commodity used in the United States that is not produced somewhere in the world far more cheaply than the United States can possibly produce it, bearing in mind the high wage standards and the high living standards which prevail in that country, and which undoubtedly the people of that country desire to have prevail.

Going right back to the beginning of United States history, what was it that made her great and strong? It was that high protective tariff wall. What was it that made Germany great and strong? It was her high protective tariff wall, which Bismarck, as a result of the wise counsel of List, insisted upon building up.

What was it that made Britain great? We hear a great deal about free trade, but it was not free trade that made Britain great and powerful. It was the fact that for centuries

wise monarchs and wise governments carefully protected the infant industries of Britain until they grew into giants. They became so strong that industries of a similar nature in other countries for the time being could not compete with them. But very shortly after Germany began to use the high protective tariff, her industries became powerful enough to compete successfully with those of Britain, and even to sell goods right in Britain in competition with British production.

What was it that built up Germany? It was the high protective tariff. What was it that built up Japan? It was the same sort of thing.

Mr. Stick: And hard work.

Mr. Blackmore: Yes, and hard work, we realize that; but just the same there was a protective tariff, if it was necessary. They kept their people on a low standard of living and operating at a high degree of efficiency.

Mr. Stick: And a low cost of production.

Mr. Blackmore: Yes.

Mr. Stick: Not a high tariff.

Mr. Blackmore: That was another way of going about it. They chose to keep their people on a low standard of living.

Mr. Stick: But not a high tariff.

Mr. Blackmore: Does anyone in this country want Canada to come down to a low standard of living in order to be able to compete in the world? Will anyone suggest for one moment that the United States should bring down the standard of living of her people to a level comparable with that which prevails in Japan, in order that she may be able successfully to keep Japanese goods out of the American market, without a tariff? Is there any member in the committee who would suggest that to anyone in the United States? Well, the ordinary United States citizen upon hearing a suggestion of that kind would brand as a lunatic the one who made the suggestion.

Undoubtedly the United States will keep a high protective tariff on every commodity of which she is able to produce what she needs. Very well; that is just common sense. That is the first fact we face. What is the next step the United States follows? Just as rapidly as she can do it she is introducing industries which will supply her with goods which formerly she imported from abroad. Anyone who wishes to investigate with some thoroughness the extent to which that process has gone on since the beginning of world war II will find some most instructive reading in the *Reader's Digest* of December, 1949, which carries an article setting out why American