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A REVIEW OF BRITISH FREE TRADE¹

THE Free Trade theory has been consistently applied to the international commerce of the United Kingdom for the last sixty years, but it would be incorrect to say it ever obtained a complete universal acceptance even in this country. We have always had a Protectionist faction. The agriculturists, landlords, and farmers have always looked back with regret to the days when the importation of corn was taxed, and when the undeveloped condition of transport by land and sea restricted our importations of other articles of food almost entirely to the produce of other climates; and during the past thirty years this faction has been reinforced and strengthened by a section of our manufacturers who have desired

¹ Address delivered August 5, 1905, to the International Free Trade Congress.