

poverty decreases in any country after they abolish or radically reduce protective tariffs.

Our innate Selfishness, when governed by unfettered competition with the world, will cause any body politic to advance in civilization with great rapidity. Selfishness cannot be fettered, no more than we can fetter private charity, but unfortunately competition can be fettered. Competition is Nature's antidote for the selfishness with which She has endowed each of us, for in all our dealings with our fellows competition forces each of us to accord to others that which selfishness urges us to keep for ourselves, and which in the absence of competition we do keep for ourselves. Self interest makes most of us think that we would be better off without the competition we meet daily, and there is no doubt some of us would be, but experience teaches that successful governmental efforts to rid any class in the community of competition, causes the body politic to retrograde with great rapidity. The government by means of protective tariffs and other special privileges granted to individuals, can only rid a very small class in the community of foreign competition, but these tariffs and other privileges enables this favored class to rid themselves of internal competition by forming combines, another name for monopolies. Against these combines the governments hypocritically enact stringent laws, which they know they can never enforce.

Selfishness to the body politic is like the steam to the engine, it is the motive power of the race. Competition acts on our selfishness, like the automatic governor of the steam engine acts on the steam, regulating it to the ever changing needs of the society. Remove your governor (competition) and the steam (selfishness) soon jars your body politic to pieces.

It is only the incompetent and cowardly who really fear competition, the competent and brave thrive on it. Legislation having for its aim the abolition of competition, the object of all protectionist legislation (including surtaxes and dumping clauses) is therefore a premium on incompetency and cowardice, and a corresponding discount on competency and bravery. Protection encourages the incompetent and cowardly, whilst discouraging the competent and brave. The tendency therefore is for the former to increase and the latter to decrease under that policy.