

machinery was made perpetual. In 1796 the duty on iron was raised to £3. 1s. 9d. per ton. And now England had 121 furnaces and made 124,879 tons of iron—and there was still no voice for Free Trade. In 1797, higher! the duty raised to £3. 4s. 7d. In 1798, unsettled revenue policy, eh? very bad for manufacturers, eh?—the duty was again raised to £3. 15s. 5d.—and not a whinny of Free Trade to disturb the deadly purpose of these wise English to beat the world in making iron. They were determined to do it, and through the only possible way, Protection. In 1802, England had 168 furnaces and made 170,000 tons of iron. And there wasn't a man in the realm to say that the iron manufacturers didn't need more Protection, that they could sustain themselves, that this increase of the tariff was special legislation, and other such bosh. In 1803—oh, the folly of changing tariffs, which our importers weep over!—up the Government puts the duty again—to £4. 4s. 4½d. In 1804, the duty again raised £4. 17s. 1d. In 1805, the duty again raised to £5. 6s. In 1806, up again!—advanced to £5. 7s. 5½d. In 1809—oh, these constant changes of tariffs (in favour of Protection) so injurious to manufacturers!—the market of England for English iron not being yet secured, the Government again advanced the duty to £5. 9s. 10d. In 1813, the market not yet secured, the duty was again advanced to £6. 9s. 10d. Under this Protection in five years the production of iron in Great Britain ran up to 300,000 tons a year. But England could not yet beat the world in making cheap iron, and, inexorable in her determination, and wisely and faithfully governed, she again, in 1814, advanced the duty on imported iron to £6. 10s. in British ships and £7. 18s. 6d. in foreign ships. Iron slit or hammered into rods, or drawn, or hammered less than three-fourths of an inch square, was charged with a duty of £20. Hoops theretofore charged £11. 8s. 4d. a ton, were now charged £23. 15s. By 1825, what had this determined, patient, ever augmenting protection accomplished? It accomplished its work. It enabled England to develop her manufacture of iron to the degree that she could undersell the world, and begin to preach the gospel of Free Trade among nations. IN THIS YEAR THE PRICE OF IRON PER TON IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES WAS AS FOLLOWS: FRANCE, £25. 10s.; SWEDEN, £13. 13s.; BELGIUM, £16. 14s.; RUSSIA, £13. 13s.; GERMANY, £16. 14s.; ENGLAND, £10. In 1826 the duty on bar iron was reduced to £1. 10s.; on hammered rods from £20. to £5. Hoops remained at £23. 10s., and pig iron at 10s.

The British Government thus advanced the duties on imported iron fifteen times in a space of 147 years, from \$2 50 a ton, to \$35 a ton, and made every one of those duties specific. More than this, during all that time her manufacturers had the advantage of high prices of iron in all the other countries of the world. England did not begin to reduce her duties on foreign iron until she had so established her manufacture that she exported nine times as much as she imported, and of course no longer required Protection. More yet: she waited ten years after it was demonstrated that she could manufacture iron from 33 to 50 per cent. cheaper than any other country in the world before she reduced her tariff, and took the first step toward Free Trade.