commodities in relation to each other, that is it can increase the price of the products of mine and factory in relation to the products of the farm, and the wages of labor so that it takes more of both to secure a given amount of manufactured product. A protective tariff can so increase the price of a piece of goods that it will take two bushels of wheat to get it when before it took but one, or one and a half day's wages where formerly it took only one.

Motives of Protection

It is natural that every man should desire to get everything he can for his product, and he has a right to get all he can in the open market, but it is not right to secure such a law as will close the market to his competitors, thus compelling the consumer to pay to him (the promoter of the tariff) more than he would otherwise have to. That is exactly what the protective tariff does and is designed to do. Is the motive back of such a law patriotism or plunder? Protection is not persuasion, but coercion—it is not opportunity, but monopoly—it is not equity, but extortion—it is not patriotism, but selfishness—it is not for public good, but for private gain.

Instead of the Government being used for the purpose of enabling beneficiaries of protection to steal from others by charging extortionate prices, its true function is to prevent aggression. The Government should not aid, but abolish extortion, but the Government is being used thru a protective tariff for the sole purpose of robbing and plundering the people.

Tariff may be used for putting money into the Government revenue, or into the pockets of private individuals. It creates two streams of wealth flowing from the taxation of the people, one going to the Treasury, and another four times as large going into the pockets of those who are already too rich. Now that part which flows into the Government is justified, but there is no justification for the part that goes into the private pockets. We are willing to be taxed for the government, to contribute our share to the support of the Government, but by what right are we taxed for the support and enrichment of private individuals.

The only equitable basis on which custom duties can be maintained for the purpose of revenue, is by the Government imposing an excise duty equivalent to the custom duty on all things manufactured in Canada. While this would not reduce the burden of taxation on the consumers, it has the advantage of contributing all the taxation to the support of the Government.

Philosophy of Protection

Home producers must sell in competition with foreign producers in the home market. Owing to the difference in soil, climate, etc., there are scores and hundreds of products which the foreigner can produce and sell at a lower price than we can sell them, just as there are scores and hundreds of products which we can produce and undersell him in his own market, and that fact holds in all countries and climes. Each can undersell the other in some things and is undersold by him in other things. The whole system of commerce, trade and exchange rests upon this one fundamental and universal fact. Foreign goods are brought into any country in the interests of all the people, not in the interest of the importers alone. Foreign shippers, importers, commission merchants, etc., carry our goods into foreign lands and sell them for us, then they bring to this country the foreign goods which we demand and need. We, the people, are the ones who bring these goods over. It is our demand that fetches them. If we did not want these foreign goods and needed them, then there would be no sale for them, yet protectionists speak of foreign goods the same as they would speak of a foreign pestilence. In their imagination, the goods are not good things, but terrible, death-dealing evils which threaten the welfare of the people by invading our markets.

The philosophy of protection is it protects the producer at the expense of the consumer, and it does protect