

**FACTS AND FIGURES,
THE BASIS OF
ECONOMIC SCIENCE**

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Facts and figures, the basis of economic science by Edward Atkinson

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EDWARD ATKINSON

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FACTS AND FIGURES

The Basis of Economic Science

"Figures never lie unless liars make figures"

BY

EDWARD ATKINSON



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1904

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NOTE

I WAS called upon early in April, 1904, to prepare two papers on "The True Method of Protection" and one on "The Tendency to Individualism." I have been able to give to them only the spare hours left me in a busy life.

I could only bring them to completion at this date, June, 1904, and I have sent them to press without such complete revision and condensation as would be suitable, because if they are to have any influence, now is the time when the facts given should be known.

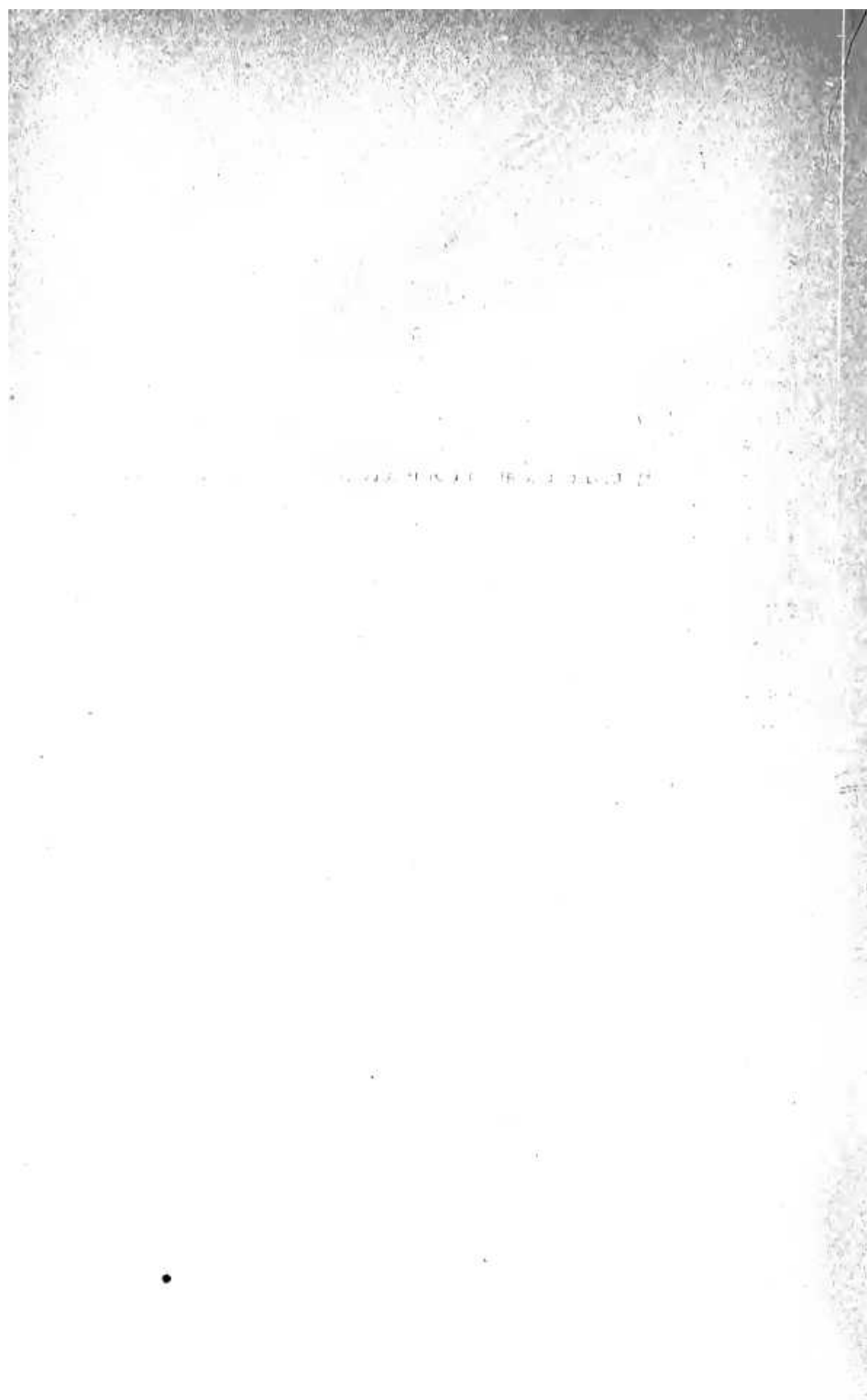
I submit them for what they may be worth, in the hope that they may at least lead to a more complete investigation on the lines indicated, and in some measure do away with the delusions that exist for want of definition in the terms and demonstration in the methods by which the great body of the unorganized consumers of this country are subjected to privation under a policy now miscalled Protection.

If the facts can be made plain as to the small relative number of those who attempt to secure profits by taxes on imports compared to the very large number of those who pay taxes that the government does not receive; and also as compared to the relatively much greater number of the persons directly interested in free exports and therefore in free imports, there may be little difficulty in taking the tariff question out of partisan politics and adjusting duties on imports on a basis of true protection.

Such is the purpose of these two treatises.

EDWARD ATKINSON.

BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.,
JUNE, 1904.

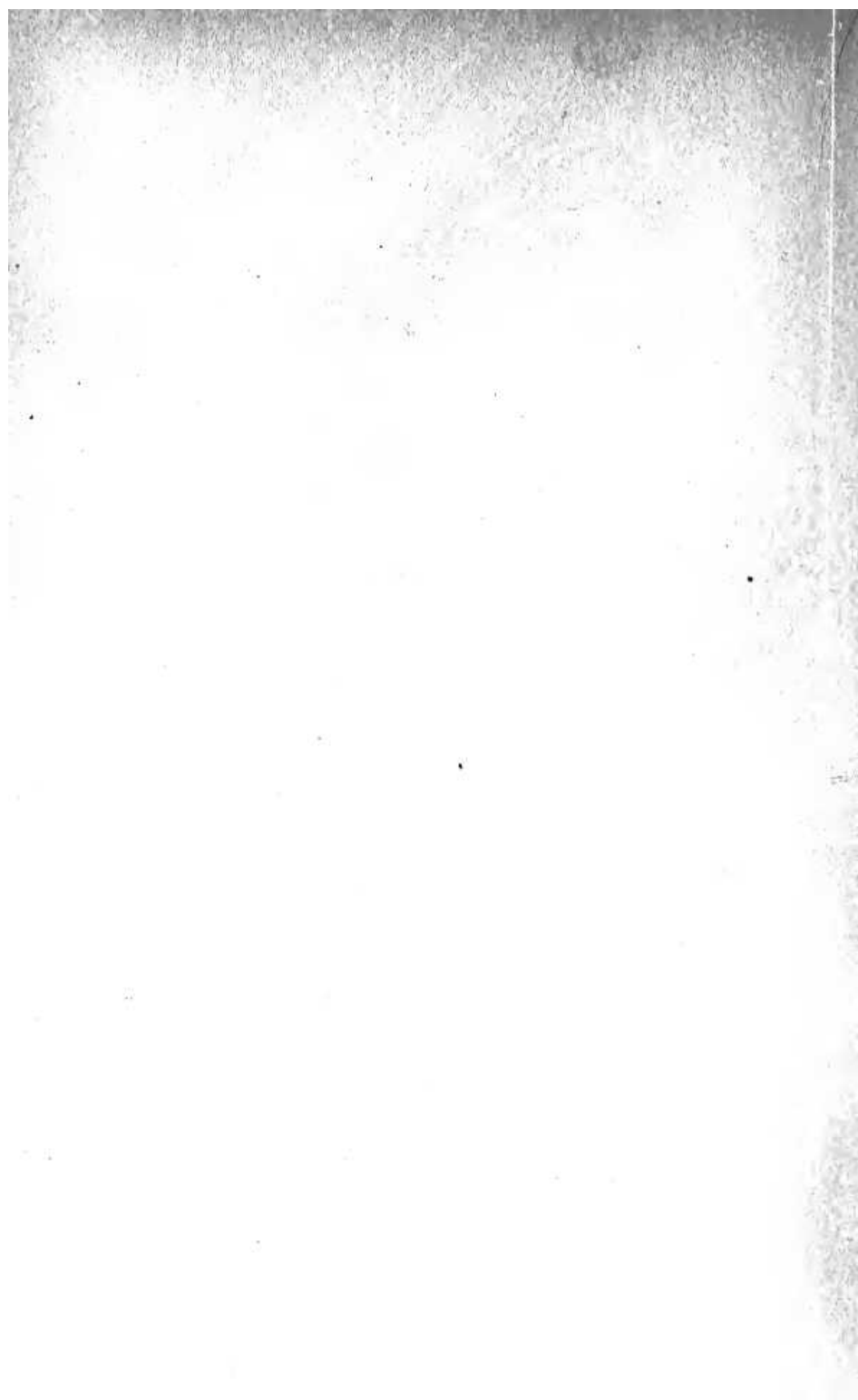


ERRATUM.¹

Copper matte is not dutiable. Copper ores and matte as well as copper in the manufactured form were for a long time dutiable. During that period, copper works at Point Shirley in Boston Harbor and, I believe, in other places on the coast, were dismantled and never renewed. At one time, the duties on copper in sheets were in such form that a vessel coming into East Boston with a new suit of copper in the hold, to be transferred to her own hull and the old copper carried away, was forbidden to do this work without paying duty on the new copper transferred and on the old copper removed. She was therefore sent down to the Maritime Provinces in order to make these repairs.

These duties also broke up the round trips between Boston and Valparaiso in Chili, which had been conducted on a large scale before these taxes were imposed. The coarse wools, the copper ores and mattes, coupled with the nitrates, were brought back to the use of our manufacturers, paying by this exchange for return cargoes of cotton fabrics and other manufactured goods. An effort was made after the Civil War to restore this trade by entering the crude copper and the wool in bond, transferring them to Great Britain for the use of her manufacturers, while entering the nitrates free of duty; but the expense of conducting the business in this manner stopped the trade, we lost almost wholly an important market for exports, and by these duties on wool and crude copper protected the manufacturers of Great Britain, to whom they went free, in their competition with us in the export trade.

¹ See p. 15, A True Policy of Protection.



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