

**THE MORAL ASPECT OF A  
PROTECTIVE TARIFF,  
HOW IT HELPS THE WAGE  
WORKER AND FARMER**

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The Moral Aspect of a Protective Tariff, how it Helps the Wage Worker and Farmer by J. H. Walker

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**J. H. WALKER**

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An Address delivered before the Massachusetts Club  
by J. H. WALKER.

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## *Address.*

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Before I proceed with the discussion I wish to present a few facts agreed upon by both sides.

All agree that wages are nominally and actually lower, as compared with American wages, in each of the following European countries, in the order named: Italy, Germany, Belgium, France, England.

In view of the difficulty of individual investigation and agreement, it is only fair that all disputants accept the rate of wages given in the United States or Massachusetts Reports for the different countries. I have taken the highest rate for each country given by either report, and I find the following yearly earnings. A family of four persons average to furnish two wage workers.

The total possible earnings of a man and woman in each country, in eight occupations, are as follows :

TRADES.	AMERICA.		ENGLAND.		FRANCE.		BELGIUM.		GERMANY.	
	Man, Woman, Supplies,	Possible Savings,	Man, Woman, Supplies,	Possible Savings,	Man, Woman, Supplies,	Possible Savings,	Man, Woman, Supplies,	Possible Savings,	Man, Woman, Supplies,	Possible Savings,
CARPENTERS	\$700 00—1000 00 218 00	784 00	\$388 00—536 80 206 00	380 20	\$310 00—434 80 206 00	228 00	\$248 50—284 90 206 00	78 90	\$265 50—287 70 206 00	81 70
LABORERS Common	450 00—750 00 218 00	235 00—329 00 208 00	235 00—329 00 208 00	188 50—268 90 208 00	150 00—210 00 206 00	4 00	150 00—210 00 206 00	11 70	155 50—217 70 206 00	81 70
BLACKSMITHS	650 00—950 00 218 00	594 00	908 50—147 40—518 90 208 00	123 00	280 00—408 20 206 00	57 90	209 00—276 80 206 00	4 00	300 00—280 00 206 00	11 70
LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS	1250 00—1550 00 218 00	1394 00	456 00—638 40 208 00	432 40	516 00—722 40 206 00	518 40	480 00—544 00 206 00	488 81	488 81—526 33 206 00	450 33
LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN	750 00—1050 00 218 00	894 00	255 00—357 00 206 00	232 40	342 00—478 80 206 00	272 80	317 50—444 50 206 00	288 50	321 35—449 89 206 00	243 89
TINSMITHS	650 00—850 00 218 00	694 00	935 00—130 00—455 00 206 00	151 00	273 00—382 20 206 00	220 00	220 00—308 00 206 00	177 50	248 50—206 00 206 00	42 50
TANKERS	450 00—750 00 218 00	594 00	350 00—490 00 206 00	284 00	347 00—485 80 206 00	258 00	258 00—361 20 206 00	210 50	264 70—206 00 206 00	83 70
WEAVERS	500 00—800 00 218 00	594 00	350 00—490 00 206 00	284 00	250 00—350 00 206 00	144 00	197 50—276 50 206 00	189 50	185 30—206 00 206 00	minim

I also give a table of things (or their equivalent) absolutely necessary for the animal existence of a family of four persons in good health.

*Yearly Cost of Supplies for a Family in New England of four persons at the lowest point.*

Supplies.	1885. Price.	Total.
Flour, 3 bbls.	\$7 00	\$21 00
Corn Meal, 150 lbs.	025	3 75
Granulated Sugar, 150 "	075	11 25
Fresh Beef, 200 "	12	24 00
Corned Beef, 100 "	10	10 00
Pork, 100 "	10	10 00
Lard, 24 "	10	2 40
Ham, 16 "	115	1 84
Codfish, 100 "	08	8 00
Tea, 12 "	55	6 60
Butter, 75 "	23	17 25
Cheese, 10 "	14	1 40
Coal, 4 tons,	6 50	26 00
Beans, 1 bush.,	3 00	3 00
Potatoes, 12 "	80	9 60
Shoes, 4 pairs,	1 125	4 50
Cotton Cloth, 20 yards,	065	1 30
Prints, 20 "	055	1 10
Denims, 5 "	125	625
Satinets, 12 "	375	4 50
Town Rent,	4 00	48 00
		<u>\$216 11</u>

These prices are too high for to-day, but whatever reduction is made from American retail prices, the same reduction must be made for Europe.

Of course, things other than the twenty-one named are used in the humblest family, but they take the place of, or the price of them is saved, by using less of the things named.

Of the twenty-one things, twelve are constantly exported, as is such leather as is used in common shoes, and are cheaper here than elsewhere, and all of them are about the same in price in every country in Europe. There is no duty on tea, and rents do not vary materially.



The prices and quality of rooms vary much more here than in Europe, going much higher and much lower here, according to locality, but the average is about the same.

That leaves seven things, that the free trader may fairly claim, cost more money in New England than in Europe.

	In New England.	In Europe.
Sugar,	\$11 25	\$ 7 25
Coal,	26 00	22 00
Shoes,	4 50	3 90
Cotton Cloths,	1 30	1 10
Prints,	1 10	90
Denims,	63	58
Satinets,	4 50	3 66
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$49 28	\$89 39
Less cost in Europe,		9 89
		<hr/>
		\$49 28

Ten dollars a year is a liberal allowance for the difference, taking the known prices in the two countries, and two-fifths of that is in sugar. Even taking the false assumption of the free traders, that they cost here the European prices plus the tariff, it would be less than \$14, for a family of four persons.

I have used every precaution known to me to make these figures reliable as a basis for a comparison. Of course in the fluctuation of prices, they are only true for the day they were made.

This table shows that a laborer's family of four persons, with two workers, cannot possibly save in Germany over \$11.70; in Belgium, \$4.00; in France, \$57.90; in England, \$123.00; in America \$534.00, in a whole year.

A weaver's family can save in Germany nothing; in Belgium, \$70.50; in France, \$144.00; in England, \$284.00; in America, \$584.00.

Take the highest paid workers, it shows that the possible savings of the family of a locomotive engineer, in Germany are \$450.33; in Belgium, \$438.00; in France, \$516.40; in England, \$432.40; in America, \$1,334.00; and the possible savings of carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, etc., etc., range between these extremes, in each of the countries named.

The free traders make two replies to such proof of the better condition of the American wage-workers :

First, that the protective tariff has had no influence in inducing our high industrial development and high wages, and

Secondly, that if it can be proved that it had, it follows that it is at the expense of other peoples, and is therefore immoral.

Believers in the rightfulness and expediency of a protective tariff reply that

If the best interests of man as man, not of any one class, or of any dozen classes of men, but all men ; not only in this country, but in all countries, is not benefited by our legislation to secure varied occupations and a high rate of wages to American workmen, securing to them an opportunity to engage in any department of mechanical and agricultural industry adapted to our soil and climate, then we cannot justify it to the enlightened conscience of the christian world.

I do not seek to commend to you for this country any narrow selfish policy.

If those, who believe in what is known as the protective principle in our revenue laws, cannot sustain it on the very highest grounds of morality and religion, then they are ready to abandon it at once.

Show us from the actual conditions in any nation, acting upon any other principles or practices, any higher moral or physical results than those wrought here, and we want no more of the protective policy.

We believe, that the protectionist theory and practice is in harmony with the highest moral principles ever proclaimed to man.

We are sustained in our position by every consideration acted upon by christian gentlemen, from the beginning until now.

When the free trader questions our position as political economists we reply, that it is justified and supported by the practices of every christian family and nation on the face of the globe.

When he assails our position as moralists and accuses us of selfishly seeking the advancement of our country at the expense

of other peoples or nations, we reply that we are acting upon those precepts of morality and practices of religion, enunciated and lived by Jesus of Nazareth, and by the most honest seekers after the Unknown God the world has ever known.

Jesus taught, that the greatest service any man could do the world was to first cleanse his own life and character.

To make the very most of one's self, morally, intellectually, physically, and in power, wealth and station, from high motives and for beneficent purposes, is man's first duty, so that in doing so, he does not hinder any other man in the doing of the same for himself.

No man can accomplish anything for his fellows without first considering himself. Neither can he accomplish it for himself without lifting up, by simple attrition, his fellow-men.

Then comes his family, then his neighborhood, his town, his country; and after, not before, the world; else there is no place for filial affection, and patriotism is an empty name.

"He that provides not for his own household . . . is worse than an infidel," said a great teacher. Christ's command to his disciples was, go preach the gospel among all nations, "*beginning at Jerusalem.*"

According to our free trade friends, God should not have taken one nation, that through their first and exclusive religious and economic training all the world, through their example, might be elevated.

Never has the slightest good been done by a man or nation by simple teaching.

It is said, "Good rarely comes of good advice." It never so comes. All truths must be first incarnated, then the man or nation may speak, and not before. The teaching, the help to our fellows, comes of being the thing we teach.

So taught our great teacher eighteen hundred years ago. Was He partial and exclusive, wanting in broad-mindedness and wisdom, when he chose twelve men for his constant, daily companions, that he might more perfectly instruct them, in his daily contact with them, that through them he might lift up all men. It is the order of human progress that one man precede all other men, and pull up only the very few of his