

**HOW WESTERN
FARMERS ARE BENEFITED
BY PROTECTION**

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How Western Farmers are Benefited by Protection by David H. Mason

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DAVID H. MASON

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FARMERS ARE BENEFITED
BY PROTECTION**

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HOW
WESTERN FARMERS
ARE
Benefited by Protection.

BY
DAVID H. MASON,

TARIFF EDITOR OF THE CHICAGO INTER-OCEAN.

COMPILED FROM EDITORIAL ARTICLES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE
INTER-OCEAN DURING 1874 AND 1875.

He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him.
—*Proverbs*, xviii. 17.
Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.—*First Thessalonians*, v. 21.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

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No. 460 WEST RANDOLPH STREET.
1875.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter and the role of the researcher in this process. The second part of the paper focuses on the methodology used in the study, detailing the data collection methods and the analytical techniques employed. The third part of the paper presents the results of the study, discussing the findings and their implications for the field. The final part of the paper concludes the study, summarizing the key points and providing recommendations for future research.

TO
HENRY C. CAREY,
THE GREATEST OF ALL THE ADVOCATES OF
 tariff-protection,
THIS LITTLE WORK IS INSCRIBED
BY ITS AUTHOR,
AS A TOKEN OF PROFOUND RESPECT AND AFFEC-
TIONATE REGARD.

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PREFACE.

My object in writing the articles contained in these pages has been to convince the public generally, and farmers particularly, that the policy of Protection to home industry is promotive of their interests and conducive to their welfare. Our present tariff system has been so wickedly misrepresented, and even willfully lied about, that it is high time the other side should be heard on its merits, and that the people should investigate for themselves.

The principal propositions which I think have been conclusively established in the following pages are these: That farmers have obtained much better prices for their produce, and have been able to export it in larger quantities, under Protection than under partial Free Trade. That the Protective policy operates to bring the manufacturer to the side of the farmer, thus dispensing with useless transportation between the two, and with superfluous middlemen. That the same policy constantly tends, with accelerating force, to enhance the value of land, of labor, and of raw materials, including the produce of the soil, while diminishing the value of manufactured articles—the more, too, as these take on higher forms of reproduction. That the foreign market is secondary in importance, the market at home being the one in which the great mass of domestic products must be sold and consumed. That foreigners either partly or wholly pay a very considerable amount of the duties levied on imports, and thus are forced to contribute to the support of our Government as an offset to the privilege of our markets, diminishing the taxes that otherwise would have to be paid by our own people. That railroad construction and transportation have been cheapened by the tariff on rails. That the “sell dear, buy cheap” maxim is merely a delusive form of words. That an increasing proportion of manufactures enters into our domestic exports under the Protective system. That Protection is highly beneficial to the manufacturer, as well as to the public, notwithstanding that it operates to reduce the prices of his products. And that the price of everything the farmer has to buy has been cheapened by Protection.

For these propositions, and for the facts, figures, and arguments adduced in their behalf, I ask, in the interest of truth and of patriotism, the earnest attention of the reader.

D. H. MASON.

Chicago, November, 1875.

HOW WESTERN FARMERS ARE BENEFITED BY PROTECTION.

CHAPTER I.

OUR MARKETS, THE HOME AND THE FOREIGN.

THE vast importance of the *foreign* market—the dependence of Western farmers upon the *foreign* market—the danger of obstructing the *foreign* market—these are subjects upon which Free Trade writers and speakers lay great emphasis. It never seems to occur to these persons that the *home* market is the vital consideration after all. In the *home* market the bulk of our productions is consumed. The activity of the *home* market forms the basis of individual and national prosperity. Although the foreign market is valuable, that valuableness is not primary, but secondary—valuable as an adjunct or appendix to internal commerce and trade. Foreign countries take only a very small proportion of our products. In the census year 1870 the total amount of our manufactures was \$4,232,325,442, and of farm produce \$2,447,538,658, or \$6,679,864,100 for both. That the immense quantity of articles here represented, except a small fraction, must have been sold and consumed in our home market, is plain from the fact that the aggregate of our exports from the beginning of the Government to June 30, 1875, covering a period of eighty-six years, was just \$13,299,706,575, or not quite double the value of our manufactures and farm products in a single year. Take another illustration: According to the agricultural reports of our Government, the four corn crops of 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873 footed up 4,111,119,000 bushels, and the