

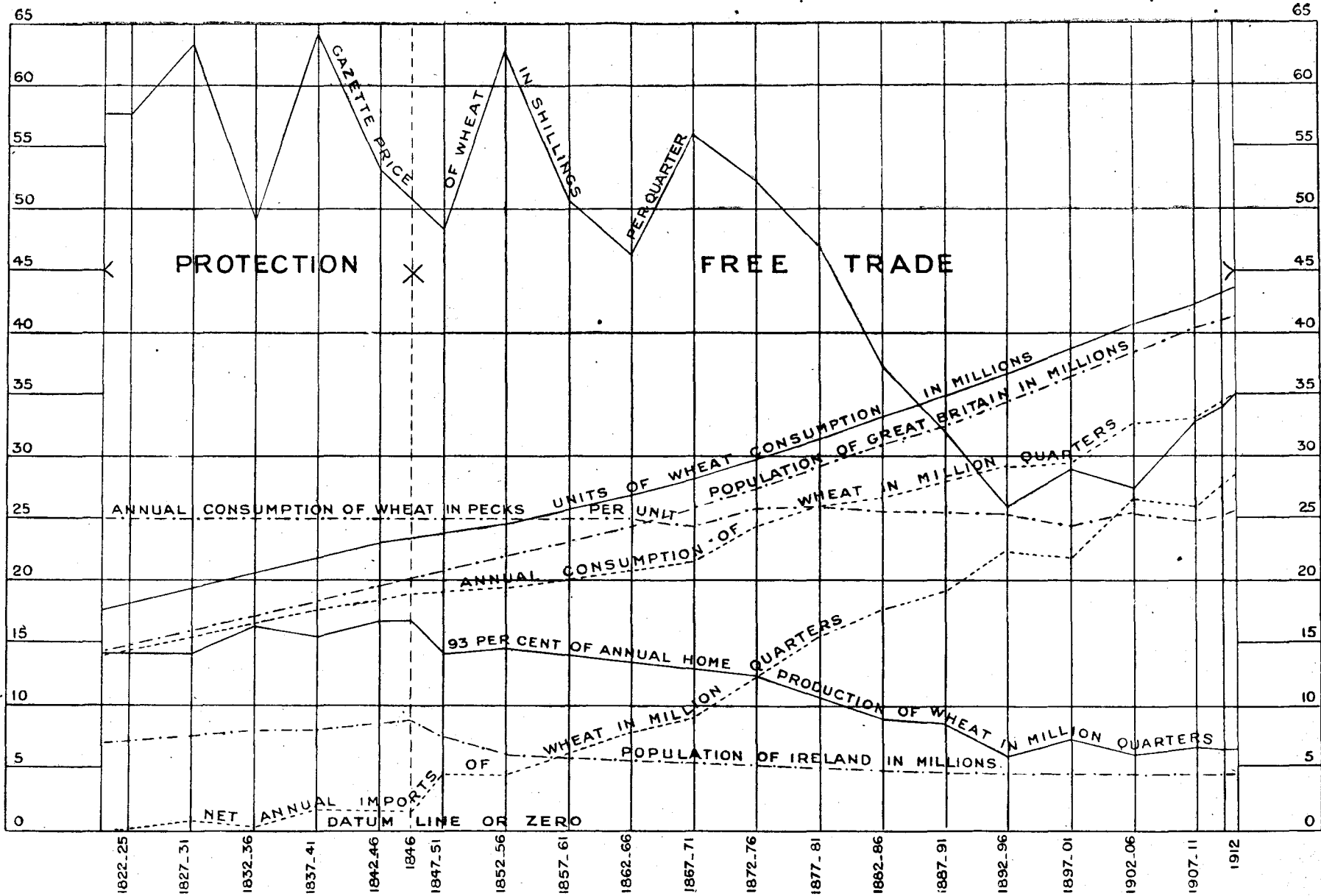
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**PROTECTION PAVES THE PATH
OF PROSPERITY**

DIAGRAM OF WHEAT STATISTICS. 1822 - 1912.



NOTE:- QUINQUENNIAL AVERAGES ARE TAKEN IN ALL CASES.

THE VERTICAL LINES REPRESENT THE MIDDLE OF THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD.

PROTECTION PAVES THE PATH OF PROSPERITY

AN EXPOSURE OF FREE
FOOD FOLLY AND FICTION

BY

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"FREE TRADE A FAILURE FROM THE FIRST"

LONDON

P. S. KING & SON

ORCHARD HOUSE, WESTMINSTER

1913

X: 531.3.N1

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PREFACE

IN venturing to criticize statements and opinions which now apparently appeal favourably to a considerable portion of the population of this country, it is above all things desirable that the critic should have ample time and opportunity to fully study his case and to put it forward in the strongest and most convincing manner possible. The writer of this book is, unfortunately for the success of his effort, not so situated, and it is only because of his firm conviction that a protest should be made against the present efforts to suppress, or at any rate to postpone, the question of taxing foreign food supplies, that he is now attempting to place before the public a few facts and arguments in order to show the absurdities of the Free Food cry, and the misleading and inaccurate assertions made in support of this cry. The longer the delay in submitting to the electorate of this

country the question of a reversal of the disastrous policy of '46, the more likely are the evils which that policy has entailed to become stereotyped as permanent institutions.

Notwithstanding the personal disadvantage above mentioned, I take courage in entering the lists on behalf of Protection (in my opinion a better word than "Tariff Reform"), because, at any rate, I am on the side of the vast majority of the inhabitants of the world, and because I comfort myself with the thought that it is better to have a good case than a good advocate. There is in this book one innovation for the insertion of which I throw myself on the indulgence of my readers. I refer to the tables I have ventured to construct of the production and consumption of wheat in the United Kingdom, commencing with 1822 and terminating with 1912, a period of ninety-one years, being twenty-five years under Protection and sixty-six years under Free Trade. In putting forward the figures in these tables, I have tried to avoid overstating my case, especially as regards the relation of wheat consumption to the population. It is generally admitted that meat now enters

more largely than ever before into the daily diet of the working classes, and, therefore, in basing my estimates of the consumption of wheaten foodstuffs on the statistics of recent times, it would seem probable that the tables mentioned above err, as regards the early periods, in giving figures which are under rather than over the mark.

In setting forth the merits of Protection as compared with Free Trade, as herein I have endeavoured to do, it seems well to state that any bias I may have in the matter does not arise from personal motives. I am not the owner of a single acre of land in the United Kingdom, and if the establishment of Protection affected me in a pecuniary sense, it would be adversely rather than otherwise, as my interests are, to a considerable extent, identified with a foreign country which now exports freely large quantities of cereals and other foodstuffs to the British Isles.

Although it seems a pity that the fiscal policy of the country should be treated as a party question, I feel bound to say that as a convinced Unionist, serving in the ranks under leaders

who are in every way antagonistic to untruths and misrepresentation, I submit these leaves to the public without any fear that I shall injure the cause which is in their custody, and on the triumph of which, in my opinion, the welfare of the country depends.

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July 1, 1913.

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