

strong and natural antagonisms, warped by a delusive hope of accomplishing the impossible, are used to lure the British people into adopting protection. The truth that protection is a sword rasped by the blade has been demonstrated again and again by British thinkers, but there may be a danger that war will cloud public judgment. The delusion that **foreigners** can be made to pay a nation's taxation is sufficiently strong to play a minor part. It is of course impossible to tax the foreigner, but it is quite possible to enable the foreigner to make levies. It may or may not be easier to give than to get, but it is undoubtedly easier, as anyone who has attempted both can testify. A people shut off by their high tariff from a favorable source of supply can be levied on by other **foreigners** favored by a preference. A British preference for Canadian grain, for example, would enable Canadians, if other British sources were shut off, to levy protection on British consumers. In **Canada** we have little to fear directly from these agitations. We are not likely to make our tariff much worse than it is. But Britain is menaced by a planned political and economic blunder that would make the prolonging of her economic supremacy impossible. The voice of understanding should be raised before the menacing delusions obtain a dangerous hold.

MENACED BY DELUSIONS.

Premature plans to be adopted by Britain after the war give frequent reminders that protectionists are among those seeking to use the war to further their fads and projects. If they can once get Britain lured with the adhesive mess and entangled in the intricate net, they think her extrication will be impossible. That freedom from the burdens of protection has enabled Britain to finance the world war for all the Allies is a momentous and convincing truth they complacently ignore. The irrefutable logic of the situation they reject. Apart from the misuse of military terms in discussing trade, a common trick that has almost lost its effectiveness, the chief strength of the protectionists lies in the delusion that a nation can injure another without injuring herself. This has been made the basis for an elaborate system of varied tariffs, to be applied to similar products from different countries. Evidently no plummet has yet sounded the depths of human stupidity in tariff impositions. Buyers of goods originating in the countries with which Britain is now at war are to be taxed, according to these proposals, more heavily than buyers of similar goods from other countries. Of course this is impossible. Similar goods when they reach the consumer will command similar prices. There are also to be tariffs, varied as goods come by rail, boat, or airplane, and the fact that they come by a short cut through another nation will also produce varying levies.

The delusion that Britain can injure foreign nations without inflicting greater injury on herself sustains the notion that she can punish them by taxing her people when buying their goods