

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1908.

PROTECT OUR LUMBER

The lumber manufacturers and loggers of the Pacific coast are organizing for an effective presentation before the congressional committee, in opposition to the scheme to admit lumber into this country free of duty.

The scheme, which has the support of Canadian lumbermen and timber owners, has also the backing of a few Americans who have become large holders of Canadian timber lands, and who desire to open our markets for their benefit.

If letting down the bars would benefit any one else there might be some reason for the abolition of the tariff. The experiment has been tried with other commodities. The removal of the duty on coffee was followed by an export duty in Brazil, so that Brazil received the benefits while the United States lost the revenue and the consumer paid no lower prices.

The admission of coal free of duty was of some benefit to the retailers, but the consumer received no benefit. The Wilson-Gorman law, which took off the duty on wool, ruined thousands of American shepherds and brought the price of wool to 6 six cents and the value of sheep to a proportionate figure, gave some advantages to the mill owners of New England, but the consumers who bought carpets, blankets and clothing received no benefit in the way of lower prices, and so it goes.

The attempt to admit the Canadian products of cheap Chinese or Hindu labor in competition with our own products would be a terrible blow to the greatest industry of the Pacific and Northwestern states, without any advantage to the consumers, and would mean the discharge or reduction of wages of thousands of men employed in the Northwest.