

at the port of New York alone through want of experience in this particular branch of the law would, I doubt not, aggregate a million dollars per annum.

There should also be added to the office of the Solicitor for the Treasury Department another assistant at a sufficient salary, whose duty it should be to look after and try customs cases in portions of the country other than at the port of New York.

Fifth. The increase of parcels-post conventions between the United States and foreign countries makes necessary the application of customs penalties to the senders of mail packages. At present there is no penalty for undervaluation. The sender is permitted to put upon the declaration accompanying the package any value he pleases, and no matter how fraudulently it is undervalued, no additional duty can be collected, no penalty imposed, and no seizure made. The provisions of law applicable to regular importations should be applied to importations by mail.

DRAWBACK.

Under existing laws manufactured articles produced in whole or in part from imported material, and exported under certain conditions and limitations, are allowed a drawback equal to 99 per cent of the duty paid upon the imported material thus consumed. In every feasible way the Treasury Department has endeavored to simplify the application of this principle, and to make its operation practicable. In my judgment, the law should be revised and simplified, and properly safeguarded substitution, similar to that now allowed in France, should be authorized. The policy of protection for the American producer within the American market having been adopted, and its application to nearly every industry established, I think the time has arrived when the Government should adopt a policy of liberality to the exporter. Manifestly, the Government can not protect the American producer in the foreign market. The best it can do is to insure the employer of American labor, who exports the product of that labor, every possible advantage and encouragement. Manufacturers should be limited to the employment of American labor; they should pay the American scale of wages, but when they export the product of this labor, thus placing it beyond competition with others within the American market, they should have the limit of encouragement in the way of cheap raw material and the right of substitution.

MERCHANT MARINE.

Not long ago, historically speaking, the nations of the world exhausted diplomacy and frequently resorted to war for territorial