

16.3 Markets in butter, cheese and beef

Room 107

Chair: Hilary Crowe

16.31 Paul Sharp, Ingrid Henriksen and Markus Lampe – The strange birth of liberal Denmark: Danish trade protection and the growth of the dairy industry in the mid-nineteenth century

The usual story of the ‘first era of globalisation’ at the end of the nineteenth century sees Denmark as something of an outlier: a country which, like Britain, resisted the globalisation backlash in the wake of the inflow of cheap grain from the New World, but where agriculture, rather than going into decline, in fact flourished. Key to the success of Danish agriculture was an early diversification towards dairy production. We dispute this simple story which sees Denmark as something of a liberal paragon. Denmark’s success owed much to a prudent use of trade policy which favoured dairy production. Moreover, this favouritism continued even after a more general movement to free trade in the 1860s. Using micro-level data from individual dairies, we quantify the implied subsidy to dairy production from the tariffs, and demonstrate that this in many cases ensured the profitability of individual dairies.

Paul Sharp is a post-doctoral researcher, funded by a grant from the Carlsberg Foundation, at the Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen. He completed his PhD thesis in June 2009 on ‘Wheat, Globalization and History’, looking at the intercontinental growth of trade in grains in the nineteenth century. He has contributed two chapters to Karl Gunnar Persson’s *Economic History of Europe* (2010) and published a paper, “‘1846 and All That’: the rise and fall of British wheat protection in the nineteenth century”, *AgHR* 58 (2010), and is currently studying the emergence and success of the Danish dairy industry in the nineteenth century.

Working with economic history in general **Ingrid Henriksen** has specialised in agrarian history from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. Her particular field of interest is institutions, including agricultural co-operatives and rural credit. Some of the results are published in *Economic History Review*, *European Review of Economic History* and *Scandinavian Economic History Review*. I am presently a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the *European Review of Economic History*.

Markus Lampe is Assistant Professor at the Department of Economic History at the University Carlos III in Madrid. Before, he completed his PhD at the University of Münster (Germany) on ‘Bilateral Free Trade Agreements in the 19th Century – Determinants and Effects of the Cobden-Chevalier Network’ and was a post-doctoral researcher funded by the Economics Department at the University of Copenhagen, and continues to work with Ingrid Henriksen and Paul Sharp on Danish economic history, especially tariff policy and dairies in the 19th Century. He published a paper on 19th Century MFN bilateralism in the *Journal of Economic History* (Vol. 69, 2009).

16.32 James Watson – When food-miles really mattered: New Zealand meat exports and the First World War

There is a perception in New Zealand that the country’s greatest contribution to the Allied effort during the First World War was through the supply of farm products, particularly meat. In fact for much of the War the authorities in London were somewhat embarrassed by their agreement to purchase all New Zealand’s exportable surplus of sheep-meat and beef. Sources of supply closer to the United Kingdom, principally in the Americas, were much more readily accessed, despite their meat commanding higher prices. The New Zealand Government found itself embarrassed in turn as refrigerated storage space filled up as increasingly scarce ships were diverted to trans-Atlantic routes. As in the negotiations over the United Kingdom’s entry to the European Economic Community half a century later, New Zealand’s preparedness to contribute militarily to the Empire’s cause appears to have wrung valuable concessions in London.

James Watson is Senior Lecturer at Massey University. He has an MA and a PhD from Canterbury University and his area of specialisation is New Zealand History, particularly on the interaction between technological change and

economic, social and political developments; and the history of fascism, principally in Europe. His current research is on New Zealand political history; the history of farm technology in New Zealand, 1920-60; and William Ferguson Massey. Sample publications include *Links – A History of Transport and New Zealand* (GP Publications/Ministry of Transport, Wellington, 1996) and *Along the Hills: A history of the Heathcote Road Board and the Heathcote County Council 1864-1989* (The Caxton Press, Christchurch, 1989).