

use of pure English wool and stop the mixing of it with Spanish, he passed an Act declaring that "If any cloth were found to be made of Spanish wool mixed with English wool, the Mayor of London shall see it burnt." Scarlet cloth began to be made in the twelfth century, and as early as this the cloth "worsted" took its name from the Norfolk town of Worsted.* But Edward III. was the real creator of the woolen industry of England. He induced Flemish wool-workers to settle in England, a colony of Flemish sheep-raisers having already established themselves at Pembroke. These colonists were more skilful and better educated than the English cloth workers, and met with violent treatment at the hands of Englishmen in spite of royal authority. Riots occurred in the wool trade centres, such as London, Bristol, Gloucester, Nottingham, Lincoln, Oxford and Yorkshire, one authority stating that from London alone in 1290 no less than 15,000 Flemish artisans were banished. Wat Tyler slaughtered and robbed all the Flemings he found on his march to London.

But King Edward persevered, for he saw farther than the trade guilds of that day, and how skilful he was at directing an immigration propaganda may be gathered from the following from Fuller's "Church History": "The King and State began to grow sensible of the great gain the Netherlands got by our English wooll. In memory thereof, the Duke of Burgundy not long after instituted the Order of the Golden Fleece—wherein, indeed, the Fleece was ours, the Golden theirs, so vast their emolument from the trade in clothing. Our Edward III., therefore, resolved, if possible, to revive the trade of his own country, who, as yet, were ignorant of that art, as knowing no more what to do with their wooll than the sheep that weare it, as to any artificial [artistic] and curious drapery, their best cloth being no better than frieze, such their coarseness for want of skill in the making. . . . The intercourse being large between the English and the Netherlands (increased of late since King Edward married the daughter of the Earl of Hainault), unsuspected emis-

* James Bonwick's "Romance of the Wool Trade."