

worth several thousand dollars more, to a carriage making concern doing a big business in the United States, and reputed to be worth a million dollars. There were some seven or more different carriage manufacturing concerns in that town at that time, all of whom joined in a strong protest to the city council against granting these phenomenally favorable advantages to the Yankee concern. They showed that they had long been established in business there; that they were all comparatively poor as compared with the millionaire new comer; that they had not been the recipients of any such municipal favors, that if such favors were to be awarded they should partake of them, and that as tax payers in the community the very money that was being so freely voted to the Yankee company, who were rich enough to establish themselves in business in Brantford without it, would have to be realized out of taxes which they would have to help pay. Under the previous conditions their lot was hard enough, but the proposition was to induce the location there of a large and rich concern who were to be their competitors in the carriage making business, and that they would have to pay their proportion of the "inducement" which would establish this competition. The later action of the Brantford city council is of similar character. Here are several parties who are already established in business in other places actually removing to Brantford to avail themselves of the generous liberality of the authorities, while a Brantford manufacturer who wants to enlarge and extend his business is refused the favor accorded to strangers, on the ground that his business is not a new one. Such things ought not so to be. It is an outrage on taxpayers generally, and specially on those who are already in similar business, and demoralizing to the whole country. We call upon the Dominion Government if it is within the purview of its authority, to place a limit on this system of municipal bonusing, or stop it altogether.

With their usual mendacity, the Commercial Union journals have been claiming Mr. Jacob T. Shantz, who operates the largest button factory on the continent in Berlin, as a Winanite, and doubtless will continue so to enumerate him, in the face of his distinct repudiation of belonging to the masked annexation party. So, in Chatham, and on the stump in the County, they insist that the Chatham Manufacturing Company could hold its own in the event of competition with millionaire establishments in the same line in the States, and this in the face of a positive statement on the part of Mr. VanAllen, who certainly ought to be an authority, that Commercial Union would be ruin to this Chatham industry.—*Chatham Planet*.

MR. MARK H. IRISH, Toronto, has purchased the Canadian patent right to the Backus perfect combustion boiler furnace. The philosophy of this furnace is that by properly arranged air ducts at the front of the furnace a large volume of air is admitted which passes over the fire and under an arch constructed of fire brick which becomes intensely hot. The inflow of air becomes heated to a high degree, and, uniting with the carbon of the fuel, creates a clean flame. There is thus but little or no deposit of soot in the flues, or escape of smoke uncombined carbon from the chimney. There are now two of these Backus furnaces in successful operation at the works of the Massey Manufacturing Co. and one in the Rossin House, Toronto, of which inspection is invited. Several others are about being placed in establishments in the city using large quantities of fuel, regarding the success of which we will speak at another time.

It would be a very dangerous thing to attempt to smuggle into Detroit, for the reason that their preventive system over there is far more effective than on this side. This arises from two causes. One is that the 300 or more policemen in the city do duty night and day along the river the whole length of the city. These help to detect and to deter smuggling from this side. Another cause is

that there are upwards of sixty customs officials in Detroit, besides several lady searchers, who are paid from \$800 to a \$1,000 a year each, for detecting and preventing smuggling. * * * * The six or seven Windsor policemen have enough to do of their own particular work without looking after smugglers. They are unable to render any service of this kind. The customs officials here may be efficient men, but there are too few of them. They cannot be at the ferry landing doing duty and at other places at one and the same time.—*Windsor, Ont. Clarion*.

FRONTIER SMUGGLING.

Editor Canadian Manufacturer.

I HAVE been pleased in perusing your remarks upon smuggling. The people in the interior have little idea of the amount of smuggling done not only at Windsor, but at all points within easy reach of Detroit. One of the local papers recently stated that probably nine out of every ten females who cross to Detroit do so for the purpose of smuggling, and that the ferry boats are often well filled with females. This statement is no exaggeration. The family that doesn't smuggle is an exception. Windsor women may visit Detroit to see acquaintances, but it can almost invariably be accepted as a fact that they go to smuggle. Windsor and suburbs contain a population of 10,000, and the fact that there are but two dry goods stores of importance in the town speaks volumes. But it is not Windsor alone that suffers. The whole county of Essex may be said to be flooded with smuggled goods, while Kent and adjoining counties have their share. It is a common persuasion hereabout that there is an almost continuous volume of smuggled goods coming over the Detroit river via the Canada Southern railroad. There are, besides, other ways of getting them across.

The present condition of things should not be allowed to continue, unless it is intended that protection shall become thoroughly discredited in this part of Canada. The trouble is, the Government have not gone the right way about suppressing the evil. They no doubt honestly believe they have done their duty in appointing special officers, who travel from place to place to detect smugglers. These detectives, however, are of little use for this purpose. They make their offices profitable, and pay scarcely any attention to what they are pleased to call "petty smuggling," which is the very thing that annoys and more than annoys the Canadian retail dealer. They pounce upon the man who smuggles by the thousand dollars' worth, and punish him to the full extent of the law, and in doing this they make a great deal of money for themselves, as they get a large proportion of the fine inflicted. The man who smuggles a suit of clothes or a pair of boots is not big enough game for them, and so he is allowed to continue breaking the law with impunity. On the principle that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," such a change is needed in the detective department of the service as will tend to prevent and not encourage smuggling. If good, active and well-acquainted officers were instructed to watch Detroit stores, this petty smuggling would soon decrease. It is a delicate operation to search a woman who may have nothing concealed in her bustle, but if officers knew who purchased in Detroit stores, there need be no such mistakes, and the fair smugglers, finding that the arm of the law was sure and unerring, would soon begin to consider it wrong to smuggle.

The staff of customs officers at the Canada Southern, Detroit river crossing, ought to be doubled or trebled; and there should be officers to watch the river bank. It is subordinates who are wanted—intelligent and energetic men—and not indolent dudes. There ought also to be three or four lady searchers. In Detroit there is that number, and four or five times the number of male officers that there are on the Canadian side. Detroit is a large, thriving city of 220,000 inhabitants, and attracts Canadian trade from over a wide extent of territory. When it is considered that there is probably \$500,000 or more of good Canadian money spent in Detroit yearly, you may estimate what our merchants and trades people lose, and the eastern manufacturers and wholesale merchants lose also.

The Government should make every conceivable effort to have all the goods brought over from Detroit pay duty on coming into Canada, and afford us that protection which we have a right to expect under the National Policy. The matter is a serious one to business men in this part of the country, and ought not to be further neglected.

Be assured that the people on this side are just as honest as the people of Detroit. They smuggle but little in that city, because their tariff law is better executed than is ours. Their tariff law is carried out almost perfectly; ours, very imperfectly.

Essex Co., Ont

BUSINESS.