

Russian Iron Fable.

A short time ago a short item on Russian sheet iron, clipped from an exchange, was published in *THE COMMERCIAL*, in view of which the following from *Farm Implements and Hardware*, will be interesting:—

"Recently the editor of an American trade journal sent a newspaper clipping, in regard to the mysterious methods of manufacturing Russian sheet iron, to Major-General Alifate, director of the Royal Arsenal, at St. Petersburg, Russia, and received the following interesting reply: "I laughed much about the nonsense recited in the cutting inclosed in your letter of March 20th, regarding our sheet iron, and beg to say that the best sorts of Russian sheet iron, exported to foreign countries, are manufactured in the Ural region, not by Government works, but by those of private firms, the Lacovleff works being the most celebrated. Of all the quantity of Russian sheet iron manufactured not more than ten per cent., and that not of the finest sort, is made by Government works; all the rest, or nearly 90 per cent., is made by private firms. There is no trade secret in the fabrication of Russian sheet iron, the excellent quality being the result of (1) the extremely pure ore; (2) the exclusive employment of charcoal as fuel, and (3) the high workmanship in the installation, arrangement and extendance of all the processes of rolling."

Exclusiveness of the United States

"The United States for the United States drummer, and the United States drummer alone." This appears to be the new doctrine, the latest development of American Protectionists. American actors have agitated, and we believe successfully, for the imposition of a fine upon foreign "drummers." These were coming from England in numbers which alarmed the United States actor. What was worse, he saw them draw big houses, where he could only command a beggarly array of empty benches. It was time then, he argued, that the Protectionist principle should be applied to histrionic art just as it is to corned beef, flatirons, and similar commodities.

The movement has now spread to other branches of industry, and we see the drummers joining the numbers in clamoring for protection. Supported by the manufacturing interest, they demand that no alien shall be allowed to travel for commercial purposes in the United States. The collector of Norfolk, Virginia, has declared the employment of English clerks trained by English cotton brokers to classify cottons for this market a violation of the labor contract Act. English houses have been in the habit for many years past of sending Englishmen regularly to customers in America; and in spite of the protective tariff, their efforts among buyers have met with great and increasing success. In certain States of the Union they encountered difficulties in connection with licenses which had to be taken out before they were allowed to travel. As this is a protective custom still in force in Sweden, and other slowly moving countries, little objection was taken to it; whereupon the United States' commercial traveller and manufacturer grew more and more jealous.

That this feeling will result in additional restrictions upon the freedom of travelling for professional and commercial purposes is almost

certain. Many eminent Englishmen visit the United States as lecturers. They may be authors, and scientific men of world-wide reputation, and capable of drawing audiences larger than those which United States authors command. Is not this a grievance; and should it not be rectified? Why not impose fines and poll taxes, or insist upon costly licenses? Professor Huxley, or Herbert Spencer at the bar of the customs house, at New York, paying a fine to be allowed to enter the United States would be a fitting subject for historical memorials "in painting, in poetry, or in gems."

British manufacturers and merchants will not, after a time, be seriously affected by the enforcement of an alien act against their travellers. These can be domiciled in the United States and made good citizens by a five years' residence. Events will show how futile such childish efforts for the restriction of trade really are. An embattled stone wall around the republic could not be more effectual. To our minds this isolating movement of the United States is not to be deprecated on account of any permanent injury it will do to the trade of this country; but rather because of the spectacle it presents to the world at large. There was a time when the rulers of the great republic received all men of worth and ability, and accorded them full liberty to pursue their avocations in her broad domains. She became the model of all progressive countries. Since that time her extreme development of the protective system bids fair to lead to extravagancies such as it would be difficult to parallel even in the most autocratic countries of Europe. Is there indeed one of these which would object to the employment of Englishmen to classify imports for their best customers?—*British Trade Journal*.

Eastern Business Changes.

ONTARIO.

C. Ryckman, tins, Newbury, has sold out.
D. J. McLean, grocer, Norwich, has sold out.
Geo. Swinston, tailor, Dundas, has assigned.
John Nauer, liquors, Walkerton, has assigned.

W. F. Ross & Co., jewellers, Toronto, have assigned.

D. & R. J. Scott, jewellers, Port Hope, have dissolved.

Flater & Scott, general store, Chatham have dissolved.

W. J. Young, general store, Youngs Point, has sold out.

T. Whitehead, dry goods, Walkerton, is giving up business.

P. McGregor, grocer, West Lorne, has not sold out as reported.

McEdwards & Son, general store, Chesley, are giving up business.

H. E. Reid & Co., dry goods, Grand Valley, have sold out that branch.

Mrs. F. Gallina, fancy goods, London, is advertising her business for sale.

John Hackett, dry goods, Peterboro, is selling off stock and closing business.

Mrs. R. H. McKay, fanning mills, Walkerton, is advertising business for sale.

John Hayden, hardware, Cobourg, were damaged by fire and water; insured.

Henry Edison, hardware, etc., Collingwood, has settled with his creditors at 50c on the dollar.

Robinson. Howell & Co., woolen manufacturers, Preston, have been succeeded by Ferguson & Pattinson.

Hunter, Rose & Co., printers, Toronto, have dissolved, the business will be continued under the old style by G. M. Rose.

Wagner, Zeidler & Co., manufacturers of piano key boards, etc., West Toronto Junction, D. C. Wagner of this firm is dead.

QUEBEC.

G. F. Fletcher, grocer, Coaticook, has sold out.

R. A. Cyr, flour and feed, Windsor Mills, is dead.

F. X. Mercier, trader, St. Hyacinthe, has assigned.

A. Bourbonnais, tanner, St. Arthe, has assigned.

Clovis Arcand, wagons, Portneuf, has assigned.

A. E. Racicot, butcher, Montreal, has assigned.

Township Butter Company, Montreal, have dissolved.

E. A. Prevost, hardware jobber, Montreal, has assigned.

F. J. Scheak, & Co., dry goods, Montreal, have dissolved.

A. McLean & Co., general store, Boundary Line, has sold out.

A. Sicard de Carnel, general store, Maskinonge, has assigned.

E. Fanning, jr., butcher, Montreal, demand of assignment made.

Barnes & Co., Worcestershire sauce manufacturers, Montreal, have dissolved.

McShane Bros & Co., E. Fanning, jr., doing business under this style, butcher, Montreal, has assigned.

NOVA SCOTIA.

A. S. Larder, jeweler, Halifax, has assigned.
Wm. Routledge, jr., general store, Reserve Mines, has assigned.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Wm. McLellan, woolen mill, Willow Grove, was burned out.

Johnson & Co., agricultural implements, Fredericton, have dissolved.

Alex. Stewart, soap manufacturer, St. John, has failed and offers a compromise of 50c on the dollar.

Sugar Beet Culture.

We have not yet learned, says the *Dominion Illustrated*, the full results of the experiments in sugar beet growing, which were by many looked upon as likely to decide the question. It would, indeed, be rash to base the practicability of such an industry in Canada on one year's or two years', or even five years' experiments. When Germany began to try her hand at beet culture for sugar making purposes, her men of science went all astray, and prophets of evil were not wanting to decry any further attempt as waste of time and money. But there were men of research who had the great gift of patience—a gift in which the Germans excel—and they persevered until triumph crowned their efforts. And now Germany is at the head of the nations in this profitable industry. Last year the 391 German factories found use for 6,933,960 tons of beets, and produced (exclusive of molasses) 910,698 tons of raw sugar. Let Canada only copy Germany's example and she, too, perhaps, will succeed. Experts that say our soil and climate are favorable. We have an experimental farm, expressly for the purpose of shedding light on such questions as these; and if the thing is possible, Mr. Saunders may be trusted to show how it can be made worth while to engage in beet culture in Canada.