

firm which conceived the novel idea of selling American hose in the Chemnitz market is but just beginning its operations, enough has already been accomplished to make success reasonably sure.

FOREIGN MILL HANDS IN NEW ENGLAND.

I have read with much interest, several articles which have recently been published in the local papers regarding immigration to this State.

I am impelled by my interest in this subject to submit some of my personal observations, which may be of interest to others.

From a personal connection of more than twenty years with manufacturing interests of New England, I have had an opportunity to observe many immigrants of various nationalities, and most especially have I been interested in the adaptability of said immigrants to the various manufacturing interests. My observation has been that the Italians who enter the factories seem to do the best in the various iron manufacturing plants and foundries. Many Italians are also employed in railroad work, in building sewers and similar work in the large cities. Many more are employed in the fruit business.

The French-Canadians have for more than thirty years constituted a large proportion of the cotton mill help in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. These people are industrious and thrifty, as a rule, they save their money and almost invariably their ambition is to save sufficient money to return to Canada to buy a farm and end their days in Canada. Some of these people, however, have settled in the "waste places" and on the "abandoned farms." They have almost invariably reclaimed these lands and made them profitable, and they have become prosperous and good citizens. During the many labor strikes, which have occurred in these New England mills, a very large proportion of the French-Canadian operatives have moved back to their farms in Canada, there to wait for better times, and when the strike has passed they immediately flock back to the mills again.

The English immigrants are very largely employed in the machine shops and cotton factories. As a rule, they are industrious and frugal, and have for years constituted a large proportion of the cotton mill help in Fall River. My observation is that Fall River has had more labor strikes than any other cotton manufacturing section. I believe it is because so large a proportion of the mill hands in Fall River are English, my belief being that labor organizations are more successful in England than they are in any other country.

The English are good operatives, but are very insistent for what they consider their rights.

The Portuguese from the Western Islands have become very prominent in cotton factories during the last ten to fifteen years. These people are industrious, frugal and make good mill operatives. New Bedford mills employ a very large number, and it is a fact that New Bedford history in cotton manufacturing has been remarkably successful. New Bedford was at one time the principal port from which the whaling vessels sailed, and many New Bedford fortunes were made from this industry. On the decline of the whaling industry New Bedford was for years considered a dead town in a business way, and when a few pioneers attempted to start cotton manufacturing in New Bedford all the prophets predicted a bad failure and claimed that New Bedford never could manufacture cotton goods successfully, and it required years to demonstrate that New Bedford could successfully manufacture said goods, and to-day it is known that New Bedford's success in this line

has been phenomenal. New Bedford is now making the finest goods made in the North, and her mills are more generally successful than are the mills of any other Northern city.

We all heard similar predictions of failure when the South began to bend her energies to cotton manufacturing, and we all know that said predictions were made by false prophets.

I will go a step farther and say that many of us have heard prophets proclaim that Charleston would never be successful in the line of cotton manufacturing. I have no hesitation in saying that my opinion is to the contrary, and that these prophets will be proven to have been false prophets.

Charleston can be as successful in the cotton manufacturing business as New Bedford has been.

It is customary for forces to move in the lines of least resistance and heretofore cotton manufacturing has been more successful in the Piedmont section, because that section has had an abundance of cheap labor, which has been due to the fact that said labor has not had as many opportunities for profitable employment along other lines, while Charleston and other Southern coast cities have had profitable opportunities for the employment of said labor along other lines. Conditions seem to be now changing and labor is becoming scarce in the Piedmont section. It is becoming necessary to get this labor from other sections, and when the mills which have for a long time been curtailing their production and the mills which have been entirely shut down shall again run full time and in many cases double time, this scarcity of labor will be more seriously felt.

I am of the opinion that the mill managements will then more seriously turn their attention to the problem of securing a portion of the most desirable of the immigrants who are continuously streaming into the Northern ports of our country.

Believing the facts to be as I have stated, I most earnestly call your attention to the merits of the Portuguese, believing them to be a most desirable class of labor for employment in field and factory.

During many presidential campaigns, we have heard the story of the stony and abandoned farms of New England. These stories were largely true. The farmers' children grew up and moved West and to the cities, where opportunities for advancement were better. When the old folks died or followed their successful children to the cities, the farms became in many cases abandoned farms. The buildings fell into decay and the land deteriorated. This condition in southern New England has been very largely changed. The writer has seen many of these abandoned farms reclaimed and made productive by the portion of the Portuguese and French-Canadians who did not seek employment in the mills.

The writer knows also of many waste sections reclaimed and made profitable by these same Portuguese and French-Canadians.

The South is making marvellous strides in manufacturing and commerce and this progress is developing many opportunities for improvement and advancement of the native Southerner. History will repeat itself and as the native Southerner steps out of the lower places and lines of employment his place will be taken by the immigrants of recent arrival.

The mill operatives in New England were at one time wholly native Americans. There are practically none in the mills at this time. They have gone into more profitable lines. The native Americans were followed by the Irish. These latter people have now very largely left the mills, they are in business of their own.

The Irish are being followed by the French-Canadians and the Portuguese in the mills of the North; the latter making good citizens and law-abiding people.—Sumner B. Sargent, in Charleston Evening Post.