

of foreign woollens into England and the export of unmanufactured wool from the country was not of much avail, but the misgovernment of Philip II., in Holland, and the consequent decadence of the Dutch industry was. The English trade never looked back from that time, and, with the introduction of machinery, it took the first place among the nations of Europe.

From the 12th to the 16th century the wool manufacture was the chief trade of Germany, and the weavers and finishers had much power and influence. Associated with them were numbers of allied industries, dyers, woad-growers, fullers, shearers, pressers, etc. The woad-growers were influential enough to cause the issue of edicts against indigo and other dyes imported from abroad. They made out that such dyes were highly corrosive and injurious to the fiber, and dubbed them "devils' colors." In Nuremberg, every person who became a dyer on his own account had to take a solemn oath that he would never use indigo. The Italians were the first European nation to make use of indigo, and a bitter struggle ensued, between indigo and woad, which found expression in 1516 in a decree imposing severe penalties on all buyers and sellers of indigo. Indigo, however, won the day, and even at the beginning of the 17th century was well established. The chief importers were the Dutch East India Company, and they raised the ire of the "woad-people" to a tremendous pitch. In England all use of indigo was forbidden during the reign of Elizabeth, and not only was every ship coming from abroad strictly rummaged, but inspectors were sent to every dye-house to confiscate all the indigo or foreign dye-woods they could lay their hands on and burn them. These laws were not repealed until the reign of Charles II. Prohibition in Germany dates from 1577, and the law was re-enacted more than once—in 1654, for example. But times had changed by the end of the 17th century, and in 1699 the French minister, Colbert, modified the law in France to the extent that the use of indigo was permissible, if woad was mixed with it. Indigo was finally freed from all restrictions in 1737, and immediately ran a victorious course over the whole of Europe.

In Germany, the clothmakers attained great power in the 14th and 15th centuries. They altered the municipal by-laws at their pleasure, and turned out councilors who did not suit them. A knowledge of their wealth and independence often caused them to enter into conflicts against the power and predominant rights of the various older hand-working trades. The records of the German towns are full of such struggles, which always ended in favor of the wool people. They gained full burgher rights in 1304 in Speyer, in 1332 in Mayence and Strasburg, in 1342 in Constance and Basle, in 1368 in Augsburg, and in 1378 in Nuremberg. The troubles were worst in Cologne on the Rhine, where the clothmakers played a very prominent part, and they

gained complete victories both in 1370 and 1377. The Flemish guilds even defied the army of Philip II., of Spain.

The wool manufacture of the north of Italy was an overflow from Germany. It is said that two monks named Amiliati, were sent from Italy to Germany as flagellants, and that during a long sojourn in Regensburg and Passau they learned the secrets of the wool weaving, and took them to Florence, so that the trade flourished in that town by 1290, long before the silk industry was developed there. The wool required was obtainable from England and Spain, the finer kinds from the latter country. At the same time, dyeing was so much developed in Florence that 10,000 pieces of woollen cloth were dyed there annually for France and Flanders.

Antwerp had achieved a great reputation abroad for its wool manufacture as early as the 12th century. It reached its culminating point in the 16th century, when the principal Italian and German firms had established branches there. At that time Antwerp had a quarter of a million inhabitants, and a fleet of 4,500 vessels, of which 300 were often in the harbor at a time. Philip, of Spain, however, put an end to this prosperity and that of the Dutch weavers altogether. It is estimated that he caused the emigration of more than 100,000 Protestants, most of whom were weavers. They took their trade to England and Germany.

When the Margrave Jodock, of Moravia, had won over two of the municipality of Iglau, with reference to certain demands of his, the wool manufacturers seized the opportunity, in union with four of the handicraft guilds, the tailors, cobblers, tanners, and curriers, to resist. Although they were unsuccessful on this occasion, they succeeded later in getting the upper hand in the government of the town, and they became exceedingly powerful and arrogant. They went so far as to attack a small neighboring town, Deutschbrad, which they accused of unfriendship towards the woollen manufacture, and plundered it so thoroughly that it never prospered afterwards. Things got to such a pitch, in Iglau and many other places, that the princes had to bestir themselves, and had great difficulty in retaining the reins of power. As was inevitable, the trade only did itself harm in the long run, not having a knowledge of history to show them what the result would be in their case, as it had been with others who got too rich and powerful, the Knights Templars, for instance. Besides, they introduced labor rules among themselves, which checked their technical progress, and drove many from their ranks into foreign lands. Things were even worse in England, where the workmen employed by the wool manufacturers were forced to accept payment in kind for their labor, giving them needles, girdles, and other articles which they had purchased wholesale. A stringent Act of Parliament was directed against this