

fabrics made in Canada, and therefore no reason for the duty. The necktie manufacturers state that they find it impossible under the circumstances to compete with Europe upon staple lines of goods, the only thing which gives them an existence is the manufacture of exclusive styles. Quite recently the Imperial Neckwear Company, in Montreal, was obliged to close down, throwing some sixty hands out of employment.

The attention of the tariff committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has been directed to the matter and representations have been made to Ottawa, but whether relief will be granted, or whether their representations will be treated the same as those of the woolen men, remains to be seen.

IMPORTS AND THE SURTAX.

Some writers have been raising a cry against the German surtax on the ground that Canadians will have to pay it. While this is true to a certain extent, as in the case of any tariff, it is not universally so. The Dry Goods Review has been enquiring into the effect of the surtax on goods which we have been in the habit of importing from Germany, and after interviewing more than a score of importers these are its conclusions: There have been a few lines of German wrapperettes, table linen, towels, cotton hose in the cheap grades, cashmere hosiery, shawls, cement, cutlery, smallware, etc., handled by our wholesale houses which will revert almost entirely to the home or the English market. The cheaper grades of Axminster squares which have come from Germany will be bought in England; much of the ribbons in Switzerland; cashmere dress goods in France and Great Britain; gloves and mitts in Great Britain and France; heavy iron and steel work in Great Britain and the United States, and so on. It is not yet known how the surtax will affect velveteens, as they are woven in Oldham, England, but dyed and finished in Germany, and they may be allowed to enter under the preferential tariff as being 25 per cent. British made. German worsteds are completely driven out of our market. Wool yarns, and the ready-made clothing, which has come in boys' sizes, will be considerably affected. Beet sugar, lead pencils, pins, skates, etc., will be received from Germany in much smaller quantities. In some of these, German manufacturers may retain their business, but it will be at the sacrifice of their profits or of quality, and those things cannot last long.

—Joseph Chamberlain, in his tariff crusade fears what may happen to British trade if the present policy is continued. He points out that foreign tariffs are aimed at British trade. Agriculture in Great Britain is practically destroyed, the sugar trade is gone, the silk trade gone, the iron and wool industries are threatened, and the same fate would come to the cotton trade. He continued. "How long are you going to stand it? England is not afraid of foreign countries. She is the greatest market in the world, and

foreign countries are her best customers. If a tariff war came, England would not come out second best. One reason advanced for America's prosperity is her enormous population of 70,000,000, but the British Empire has 60,000,000 all white, and some 350,000,000 of other races, all prospective customers of the Mother Country." Again: "You are adopting a suicidal course. If you persist in the present policy, your workmen must either take lower wages or lose your work."

—A new style of floor covering, which was shown at the last Dominion Exhibition, at Toronto, is deserving of more than the passing notice which it received at the time. It is made of small star-shaped pieces of hard rubber, which interlock and form a solid, durable covering, said to be superior to linoleum. It is noiseless, non-slippery, water-proof and sanitary. This covering, which was shown by the Gutta Percha and Rubber Co., Toronto, is in use in the King Edward Hotel, and other places, where the hard traffic will put it to the test.

—The lace industry has received an impetus in France by a law promulgated last July, ordering compulsory instruction in the making of hand laces in all girls' boarding schools, as well as in the seminaries for lady teachers in all those departments where lace making is still practised by the population, or where it formerly existed and through lack of interest has died out. But for this order the industry promised to become extinct, and as laces are to be more worn, the authorities have doubtless taken a wise step in the interest of textile industry in their own country.

—It is rather disheartening to those who have built hopes upon direct trade between the leading British colonies to learn that just as the preferential tariff is going into operation between Canada and South Africa, news comes of a severe depression of trade in the Cape. This is caused partly by one of those prolonged droughts to which the country is subject; and partly by the dumping of war office supplies on the local markets after the war. The mushroom traders that sprang up on the strength of war office expenditure are being swept away, but the large and old-established houses appear to be in good shape. Canadians, who are preparing to do a trade there, should be careful whom they appoint as local agents. The drought is causing immense loss to stock, and as a consequence, there is a heavy decline in the output of wool, which has fallen £300,000 in one month. The general financial outlook depends upon the solution of the labor problem on the gold fields. The mines are only in partial operation, and Kaffir laborers made so much money during the war that they will not go back to work in the mines, nor are they likely to until hunger compels them. There is a prejudice against using Asiatic labor in the mines, but the agricultural crisis may lead the farmers to see that the immediate and full resumption of mining is the only hope of saving the situation. No doubt the