

WHERE PROTECTION LEADS US.

The Protectionist policy of our American neighbors, as seen in the Dingley Bill, seems to have given an impetus to Protection in Europe. Among other powers, Bulgaria is taking measures to protect home manufacturers from foreign competition. That government has declared that every Bulgarian Government employee in receipt of a monthly salary must be clothed from head to foot in cloth and leather of native manufacture only. Cloth and leather manufactures are allowed to the end of the present month to provide themselves with a registered trade mark, which all articles must bear, and without which evidence of home-made no article can be supplied to any functionary. That functionaries will not like this regulation, and that they prefer to get their clothes and boots made outside Bulgaria, is evidenced by the stringent regulations which have been framed, for the use of Custom House officers, and which prescribe nothing less than immediate confiscation of the exotic habiliments. Nor do precautions end there. At all Government and municipal offices an official is to be posted with instructions to assure himself by personal inspection that every coat, waistcoat, and trouser coming upon the premises is true Bulgarian.

HIS ONE REGRET.

Once a clergyman went to pay a visit to an old Yorkshire yeoman, who was lying on his death-bed. After a few preliminary words, the worthy minister said that, if the veteran had anything on his mind, he hoped he would ease his conscience and confide it to his pastoral ear, so that he might die in peace. "Well, sir," answered the old sportsman, "if I only had to live my life over again, I'd fish more with bait and less with flies."—*Argonaut.*

Under the same heading, "His One Regret," might be placed the saying of Sergeant Moloney, a retired pensioner and an enthusiastic fisherman of Detroit River in days gone by. He suffered a long illness one winter, in fact was very near death's door, and recovered but slowly. Being afraid that he might become too infirm to fish any more, he said to a neighbor one March morning, in a weak voice and with a longing look towards the river, "If I could only get another sayson's good fishing, I wouldn't care a dom." It is consolatory to know that he did get better, and that he was "converted" from a protane Sunday fisherman into a faithful frequenter of a dissenting church.

AMERICAN COMPETITION IN IRON AND STEEL.

Englishmen are now admitting that they entertain grave fears on account of the low range of manufacturing costs attained in the United States. The engineering strike has directed attention to the fact that English employers have not the same control over their workshops and workers that prevails in the United States, and there is a general fear of competition from this country. But this fear is not alone on account of the difference in the two countries in relations between employers and workmen, as the following from J. S. Jeans, former secretary of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, will show:

"The United States have now attained to such a low range of manufacturing costs as no European country can excel, and probably none can rival. The cost of producing Bessemer pig iron in the most favorable circumstances is now in that country 10 to 15 shillings (\$2.50 to \$3.75) per ton less than the corresponding costs in Great Britain. The difference in the cost of producing a ton of steel is at least as much, and in the majority of cases is likely to be a good deal more. I know of cases where the labor cost on a ton of billets and rails is 25 to 35 per cent. less than the lowest labor cost I have ever heard of in this country, although the rate of wages paid in America is materially higher. Quite a number of iron works in this country pay from 15 to 17 shillings 6 pence per ton for their coke, which in the neighborhood of Pittsburgh is delivered at works for 5 to 6 shillings per ton. The United States not only command richer and cheaper ores, but they have the fundamental advantage of possessing unlimited indigenous supplies, whereas this country is now producing 30 per cent. of its total output of iron from imported ores, about the extent

and duration of which there is a considerable amount of anxiety. Now the bearing of all this upon the present dispute is manifest. American engineers can purchase the materials of construction at a considerably lower range of prices than is possible in this country. This fact would alone place them in an almost impregnable position, even assuming that all other things were equal."

PETROLEUM IN JAVA.

The following is from the *Moniteur Officiel du Commerce*, Paris, July 1st, 1897: "There are in the districts of Lidah and Koetei forty wells, with an average daily production of 19,800 gallons of oil, which could be easily increased to 25,000 gallons. Recent reports are to the effect that two new wells have been discovered, producing some 1,400 barrels per day additional. In the district of Panolan, there are 15 wells, the largest of which has a daily production of 2,400 barrels. The wells of Tinawen have been but little exploited. A company has obtained a ten-year concession for this district, and the probable yield is estimated at 1,600 cases a day. There are two refineries, and another in process of construction. The paraffin factory at Ploentoean, which has a capacity of production of 6,000 pounds a day, is only partially in action. A factory at Wonokranjo supplies all the oils necessary for the sugar refineries and for the railroads of Java. Statistics for the last eight years show that the production of refined petroleum on the island has increased from 8,000 cases in 1889 to 1,250,000 cases in 1896. During the month of January, 1897, the production reached 108,007 cases, against 87,577 cases in January, 1896. The same journal, in its edition of August 5th, has a communication upon the same subject, to the effect that the exports of petroleum from Java have already begun to be a serious menace to the American trade.

QUESTIONABLE HONESTY IN TRADE.

If English trade is not honest, where shall we find honesty in trade? Of course, the English contemptuously say the foreigner is not honest, but here is an Englishman and an English journal deliberately "speaking out in meeting." It is not long since Lord Justice Fry, lately retired from the bench, wrote to the *Times* to show that the question "whether the morality exercised in the conduct of business in this country is satisfactory" can only be answered in the negative. Sir Edward Fry is practised in the art of summing up evidence, so that his conclusions are not to be dismissed lightly. The *Drapeer's Record* says, on this subject: "The over-insurance of vessels destined to be lost, and the adulteration of articles of food and drink, are subjects with which this journal has nothing to do; but the trade we represent is certainly concerned in the allegations made regarding this fraudulent imitation of trade names and trade marks, the scamping of work for which a salary is paid, the adulteration of manufactured goods, and the exaction of illicit commissions. Upon the latter point we have more than once expressed an unequivocal opinion. Sir Edward Fry has obtained some information from an eminent firm in the North of England, whose experience is that the whole course of business is riddled with bribery. Commenting upon this, an evening contemporary opines that such a state of things must greatly handicap us in our struggle with the foreigner. Undoubtedly it has this effect; but it is in a measure consoling to remember that, however prevalent the system of secret commissions may be here, it is vastly more so on the continent."

"PUT UP JOBS" MUST BE CAREFULLY PUT UP.

People who make up their minds that they will "beat" an accident company should take precautions against untimely visits of agents and adjusters of companies. Not long ago an ex-detective thought times were too hard and that he could make a raise from the accident companies. He took out as many policies as he conveniently could in this city and then retired to his home on the south side and had a telephone message sent to the home office of one of the companies that he had been so un-

fortunate as to shoot himself in the foot. The secretary suspecting something was wrong went at once to his house, and the wife told him that her husband had been cleaning his revolver when it had been accidentally discharged and the bullet went through his shoe and foot. The shoe was asked for, but, when found, exhibited no hole as it should. The man himself was next interviewed and told an entirely different tale as to the shooting, and when confronted with his wife's tale he broke down and confessed that the shooting was a "put up job."—*Investigator.*

DEPTH OF FRESH WATER LAKES.

Lake Superior is very deep, but by no means the deepest lake in the world. The deepest fresh water on the globe is Lake Baikal, in Siberia; next comes Crater Lake, in Oregon, which is 2,000 feet in depth. Lake Superior's greatest ascertained depth is 1,008 feet. Lake Michigan in its deepest part is fathomed by a plumb-line not much over 900 feet long, and on a line east directly from Chicago its utmost depth is not over 200 feet. Its deep part is the northern portion, the biggest figures in soundings being opposite the Sturgeon Bay Canal. Up towards the Straits of Mackinac it shoals off. Lake Michigan's bottom is 400 feet below the level of the sea. The deep part of Lake Huron gives soundings of 750 feet. The utmost recorded depth of Lake Ontario is 738 feet. Lake Erie is the shallowest of the five, in few places being deeper than 80 feet, though to the southeast of Long Point the depth reaches 204 feet.

SCREW VS. PADDLES.

An interesting contribution to the once much mooted question of screw vs paddle efficiency is afforded by an illustration in the November number of Cassier's Magazine, representing two of the earlier steam vessels of the British navy, the paddle steamer "Basilisk" and the screw steamer "Niger," towing stern to stern, the vessels exerting their utmost power in opposite directions. From the very meagre particulars which are available, it appears, says Cassier's Magazine, that this trial of power took place in the English Channel on June 20th, 1849, and lasted one hour, in which time the "Niger" towed the "Basilisk" at the rate, by patent log, of 1.466 knots per hour. Both ships were of very nearly the same dimensions, the former having a length of 194 feet and beam of 34 feet, while the latter measured 190 feet and 34 feet respectively. The tonnages were 1,073 and 1,030, and the horse power equipments, 406 and 400 respectively. Both ships, too, were constructed at the Woolwich Royal Dock Yard, and the conditions therefore were as nearly alike as one could well wish them to be for the purpose of a fair comparison.

OLD COINS MELTED UP.

The United States Treasury is retaining all the United States coins received in the ordinary course of business bearing the figure of Liberty seated. These coins are sent to the Mint to be melted up. Over three million dollars' worth in subsidiary coinage has been melted and recoined during the past year. Of course the new dies are used. This is but a drop in the bucket to the mass of old silver which is still in circulation.—*Harpers' Round Table.*

—There will be suspicion of an immigration policy that can require the dismissal of an old, trained and capable agent like Mr. John Dyke, to make room for a raw hand like Mr. Alfred Jury, whose only known recommendation for the position is the fact that he has been useful as a political supporter. He will require some years of service before his knowledge of immigration methods is as great as that of the person whom he supplants.—*Winnipeg Free Press.*

—A Paris advertising agent, who recently painted the front of his establishment a brilliant red, has been sued for damages by a milliner, a jeweller, and a silk merchant, having stores opposite, on the ground that the reflection of color makes it impossible for their customers to distinguish the colors of the goods they wish to buy.