

ing against the sale of her inventions to competitors, and by the imposition of Customs duties upon foreign products.

For instance, while the growing scarcity of wood for the supply of charcoal convinced the Government and people of England, as early as 1750, (before mineral fuel had come into use,) that it would be to their advantage to allow the free admission of iron in its rudest form from the American Colonies, and that as a matter of fact they passed an Act, in that year, setting forth that it would be of great advantage not only to the colonies, but also to the kingdom, that the manufacturers of England should be supplied with pig and bar iron from the colonies free of duty, yet they so fully believed in protecting their own home industries, that the same Act that made the rudest forms of iron free of duty (because England was unable to produce the material herself), contained the following clause :

"That pig and bar iron made in His Majesty's colonies in America *may be further manufactured in this kingdom*, be it further enacted . . . . that from and after the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty, no mill or other engine for slitting or rolling of iron, or any plateing forge to work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making steel, shall be erected, or after such erection continued in any of His Majesty's colonies in America, and if any person or persons shall erect, or cause to be erected, or after such erection continue, or cause to be continued, in any of the said colonies, any such mill, engine, forge or furnace, every person or persons so offending shall for every such mill, engine, forge, or furnace, forfeit the sum of two hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, and it is hereby further enacted . . . . that every such mill, engine, forge, or furnace, so erected, or continued contrary to the directions of this Act *shall be deemed a common nuisance, etc., etc.*"

By the Act in question Great Britain undoubtedly encouraged the production of pig and bar iron in America, by exempting them from duties to which like commodities were subject when imported from any other country, but she did this simply because she had not until that date found a fuel substitute for charcoal. A glance at the Act will moreover show that she imposed an absolute prohibition upon the erection of steel furnaces and slit mills in any of her American colonies.

Various other restrictive Acts of Parliament were passed in