

deterioration of our working population through *excessive drinking*. On these points I confess I am anxious; but they are beyond my control, except in so far as my personal influence and the maintenance of a strict, but kindly, discipline in the works may affect the latter, and I fear that is, after all, very little.

I therefore feel, doubtless with many others, that the only wise course, both at present and in view of any competition we may be called to meet at a future day, is to do my own part calmly and diligently, troubling myself as little as possible with matters beyond my control. It may, however, be well to direct public attention to the impolicy of an undue shortening of the hours of labor by legislative enactment, which directly enhances the cost of production in this country, and to the important question whether *our government has done in past years, or is at present doing, all in its power to keep in hand and to increase its influence with our own colonies and foreign states to prevent their adoption or maintenance of heavy protective duties on our manufactures*. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

September 4.

DEIRA.

The self-complacent letter of "Deira" induced "A Practical Man" to write the editor of *The Times* a second letter, under date of September 8, from which the following extracts are taken:—

SIR:—May I be allowed a few words in reply to the various comments which have been made on my letter of 1st inst? I am not maintaining a thesis or entering into questions of political economy. I am only pointing out as emphatically as I can the fact that other nations, and notably the United States, are progressing more rapidly than ourselves in certain branches of manufacture. * * * I still hold that, although at present the cost of production in America is greater than with us, yet that this is only a temporary difficulty. Manufacturers have proved that they can produce the article required by the market, and they are now bending all their efforts to the reduction of cost. I can specify a class of English goods which have latterly been wholly superseded in the United States market by goods of native, or, as they have it, of "domestic" manufacture, and to the excellence of which I have had to bear unwilling testimony. I could mention another class which is evidently doomed to the same fate, as they can be produced on the other side of the water at a reduction of thirty-five per cent. as