

Are We Downhearted?

Cancellation of German Patents Opens Up Considerable Field For Canadian Manufacturers---How Some Firms Are Taking Advantage of the Situation.

The war has changed the status of German patents. Devices covered by German patents may now be manufactured in Canada after application to the proper authorities at Ottawa. The engineering business has many opportunities in this line, and the James Morrison Brass Manufacturing Company is figuring on one or two of them now.

"Do you know what that is?" The Star was asked, as an officer of the Company held up a queer looking combination of taps and dials. German words were inscribed on the face of the figured dial, and a German patent number was stamped into the brass of the pipe connecting the two.

The Star was obliged to confess ignorance of the simplest principles of plumbing and steam engineering.

"This is what is known as a gas pressure valve regulator," The Star was informed. "They are used chiefly in refrigerating plants to control and register the flow of ammonia gas. Heretofore these dial regulators have been all made in Germany as this one was. They are patented, and the careful German as a rule takes full advantage of the patent laws of Canada and the rest of the British Empire. We have been asked to submit a price on making them here for a Canadian company, and will probably be able to fill the Canadian demand. The German patentee of this valve regulator for cold storage plants has probably been enjoying a monopoly all over the world. But the war has changed all that."

Full Staff, Full Time.

The Morrison Company manufacture all kinds of plumbing and engineers' supplies. They have been

asked to tender on the brass work for optical instruments made in Germany heretofore. The war has not put plumbers and engineers out of business apparently, for the full staff of the Morrison works is employed full time, and nobody is worrying.

The war early had a certain stimulus, in fact, for the Morrison business, though perhaps not a very big one. Because of the war the firm was called upon to supply a considerable number of water taps for the camp at Valcartier, and also for the Canadian camp on Salisbury Plain. But that was only a small item. The pleasing thing is that the regular business of the home trade is normal. Heating plants are being put in, or repaired for this winter just as usual. Engines are receiving the usual attention that is given to them by their owners and guardians at this season of the year. Boilers have been refitted for active service, just as if there was every expectation that they would continue to be needed. Marine brass has been ordered for the boats being built or re-fitted for next season. The Morrison Brass Co. has not laid off a man.

Improving Since the War.

The Star was told that though there had been a certain falling off in the brass manufacturing business every month since New Year's until the outbreak of the war, owing to the depression in the building trade, curiously enough in August, the first month of the war, there was an increase of 15 per cent. September equaled last year, and October, when the statement is complete, will certainly equal, and probably show an increase over the business of the corresponding month of last year.