

CHAPTER XIII

CLEVELAND IRON AND STEEL

IN addition to the general reference to manufacturing firms on the North-east Coast made in Chapter XII, something must be said in more detail about the great companies now carrying on what is known as the Cleveland iron and steel trade, which have absorbed most of the lesser firms. Bolckow Vaughan & Co. takes the first place, inasmuch as Ferdinand Bolckow, a naturalised Mecklenburger who had made money in the grain trade in Newcastle, and John Vaughan, the discoverers in 1850 of the principal Eston vein of Cleveland ore, were the founders in 1841 of the Cleveland industry as we know it and of this firm, which rapidly took the lead in the Cleveland metallurgical world. Impressed by the possibilities of Middlesbrough, they had put up an iron foundry and rolling-mills, and had afterwards built a blast furnace at Witton, to use the ore found in the coal measures. Then came the discovery of Cleveland ore already described.

In the year 1864 the private firm was registered as a limited company, with a capital of £2,500,000 and the support of shareholders from Lancashire and other districts. The first Chairman was Ferdinand Bolckow. After him came his nephew Carl Bolckow, and then Henry Davis Pochin, whose grandson, the Hon. Henry Duncan McLaren, C.B.E., is one of the present Directors of the Company. He was succeeded in the Chair by Henry Lee, E. Windsor Richards and Sir J. E. Johnson-Ferguson, Bart., whose son, Colonel E. A. Johnson-Ferguson, is another of the