Tariff Commission; but we should at least point out how seriously these duties are weakened by the numerous exemptions

The manufacturers of the most important lines of agricultural implements, of springs, axles, tools, bedsteads, windmills, etc., have, in effect, free iron and steel, and in many cases the materials made free are those whose manufacture had been specially promoted by the Tariff as it stood before the exemptions were granted. These exemptions are one of the main causes of the difficulties in which we find ourselves.

Another cause is the application of low rates of duty to the larger sizes and sections of rolled steel. This has shut out the Canadian mills from a large and important field, and restricted them to the manufacture of the small sections.

The only other branch of business to which we would refer is the manufacture of wire rods. The consumption in Canada of wire rods, wire, and wire products, is not far short of 200,000 tons yearly, and less than one-half are made in Canada from Canadian raw materials. Since the cessation of the bounty wire rods are entirely unprotected; they do not even share in the protection accorded to the billets from which they are made. It is respectfully urged that the anomalous position of this important industry, which cannot be remedied until the whole tariff is dealt with calls for immediate relief, and adds special weight to the request we are herein preferring.

The statement of the imports of iron and steel into Canada for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1911, shows that the Canadian manufacturers have a large field yet to occupy. The unrevised Trade Returns show imports of:

	537,863	tons of steel of a value of	$14,868,752
	270,102	tons of pig iron of value of	3,613,931
Total	807,965	Valued at	$18,482,683

These imports are in quantity not far short of the entire present production of the Canadian plants, indicating ample field for growth, which, however, cannot be occupied to any great extent under the existing tariff with its discriminations and exemptions.

The cost of labour represents approximately 80 per cent of the cost of manufacture of iron and steel, and the above figures indicate that about $12,000,000 was paid by Canada in wages to foreign workmen, for iron and steel imported in the year referred to, much of which ought to have gone to Canadian workmen.

A large increase in the amount of iron and steel made in Canada would, therefore, not only help the industry by reducing costs, and providing an adequate return upon capital, to the encouragement of further development, but would build up industrial populations in Canada, by providing a large amount of well