

could be delivered at the works at a rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ton per mile, it could be used profitably for iron smelting in this County; and that every description of iron, whether for the varied uses to which malleable iron is put, or for castings, could be produced in Carleton County and sent to St. John at a price so low as to compete successfully with English and Scotch irons. In fact, the result would be that three-fourths of the importation of British and Foreign iron would cease.

Of the crude material we have such abundance as would not only supply our own consumption but furnish almost any amount needed for exportation. A notion is abroad in some parts of the Province that the present company monopolises all the iron mines of Carleton. But the truth is that the portion held by lease by the present company is a mere patch compared with the enormous extent of our mines. The Iron District runs in a North Easterly direction from the Parish of Richmond, across the whole extent of the County. How far it extends into the State of Maine does not matter in the present inquiry. From Richmond it extends across the whole Parish of Wakefield, then crosses the River and extends up the Begaguinic River. Mr. Best has traced it a distance of some twenty eight miles. Mr. Cadman, Engineer of the Iron Works, while on the Tobique River, found the same Iron Belt extending as far as the Agulquac, say sixty five miles from our starting point in Richmond; and although he made no attempt to trace it further, he judged that from the nature of the country it continued on—how far he had no means of judging. This belt of ore varies in width, but has say an average width of six miles. Of this vast iron region, covering probably 250,000 acres, the present Charcoal Iron Company have under lease from the Crown 5760 acres, or less than one forty third part. The actual mining operations of the late company and the present, have been confined to opening the ground in a number of places, over a surface of less than two acres; the greatest depth reached in any one place being perhaps 20 feet. Four acres of the same richness in ore would provide one furnace with ore for fifty years. These statements can, we believe, be proved beyond the shadow of a doubt. We believe that all scientific men who have visited this district have expressed but one opinion as to the surpassing richness of our iron mines, and as to the almost inexhaustable means of wealth which Carleton possesses in them. In their developement we need only Railways. And your committee can boldly declare that if the proposed extension served no purpose other than to