

There is considerable discussion at the moment as to a bounty on iron ore. This is inseparably bound up with the steel trade of Canada, and if that bounty were given either as a bounty to encourage mining operations or to encourage smelting of Canadian ores in Canada, it would go a long way towards easing an exceedingly difficult situation.

During the nine months ending December 31st, 1912, the imports of iron ore were recorded as 2,047,509 tons, valued at \$3,932,074. Since practically all of the imported ores are used in Canadian blast furnaces, the statistics of consumption of imported ores in these furnaces would furnish a fairly close estimate of the quantities imported. There were used in Canadian iron furnaces during 1912, 2,019,165 tons of imported iron ores, as compared with 1,628,368 tons in 1911. Increasing amounts of iron ores have been imported since 1896, the total quantity imported during the 17 years being 12,545,654 tons.

According to the United States reports of commerce and navigation, there were exported to Canada during the twelve months ending June 30th, 1912, 931,647 tons of iron ore, valued at \$2,806,238, and during the previous year 826,071 tons, valued at \$2,496,246. The shipments of iron ore from Newfoundland to Sydney, during the calendar year 1912, were 956,459 tons, as compared with 737,261 tons in 1911, and 808,762 tons in 1910.

Pig Iron Production.

The total production of pig iron in Canada in 1912 was 1,014,587 short tons (905,881 long tons), valued at approximately \$14,550,999, as compared with 917,535 short tons (819,228 long tons), valued at \$12,307,125, in 1911, and 800,797 short tons (714,998 long tons), valued at \$11,245,622, in 1910.

Previous to 1896 pig iron was made entirely from Canadian ores. Since that date, however, increasing quantities of imported ore have been used, as well as imported fuels and fluxes, and in 1912 about 97 per cent. of the ore charged, 52 per cent. of the coke, and 27 per cent. of the limestone, were imported. This condition is attributed largely to questions of cost and transportation affecting the ore supplies available for each furnace. The Newfoundland ores can be cheaply and conveniently laid down at Sydney, N.S.—in fact, the iron and steel industry there has been built up on the basis of these ores, and by the local coal supply. In Ontario, also, large quantities of imported ores are used. In 1912 the imported ores used in Ontario amounted to 1,142,593 tons, and the Canadian ores, 71,588 tons, the imported ores being derived from Michigan and Minnesota deposits.

Not Developed Sufficiently.

Canadian iron ore resources have not been developed sufficiently to supply home demands—in fact, since 1896 Canadian blast furnaces and steel plants have become more and more dependent upon supplies of imported ores. The total shipments of iron ores in 1912 from mines in Canada were 215,883 tons, whereas blast furnaces consumed 2,090,753 tons, and steel furnaces 43,006 tons. Although the shipments from iron ore mines were slightly higher than in 1911, they are, with the exception of the previous year, the lowest that have been recorded in thirteen years, and amount to less than 10 per cent. of the year's requirements of blast and steel furnaces.

Mr. J. J. Carrick, in asking the Dominion government the other week to encourage the development and utilization of Canadian iron ore deposits, drew attention to the fact that during the fiscal year 1913 there were imported into Canada iron and steel products amounting to \$141,000,000. This importation constitutes nearly one-

quarter of the total amount of imports into Canada during the fiscal year 1913. What would it mean to the development and prosperity of Canada if this vast amount of iron and steel, or even a substantial portion of it, were manufactured in our own factories and steel plants, and from our own iron deposits? asked Mr. Carrick.

During the past year we produced 50 per cent. less Canadian iron ore than we did ten years ago, but the imports of foreign ores have increased 250 per cent. Canadian blast furnaces are closed down, and we are keeping busy United States furnaces and United States steel plants by importing their products.

Keeping Foreign Plants Busy.

Mr. Carrick added that if we desire to revitalize and rehabilitate this industry, to stimulate and foster its development in the interests of all sections of our community, we must enact some legislative measures, provide some form of adequate protection, or else our Canadian industry will remain in its present languishing condition, while we are keeping busy foreign iron mines, foreign furnaces, foreign steel plants to supply the ever-increasing requirements of Canada.

In answering Mr. Carrick, Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, was correct in ascribing to the financial stringency part of the present depression in the steel industry in Canada. Aside from that, the question still remains as to whether or not the tariff should be regulated in order to assist the industry to grow to the extent it should. Mr. White stated his belief in a policy of reasonable protection for this country. "I think a mistake is made by economists," he said, "in saying that free trade is right at all times and for all countries, and I think, too, that protectionists are wrong in saying that protection is right at all times for all countries. The question of what tariff suits a country is a question of experience and common sense, having regard to the requirements of that country."

The position taken by the steel industry is that the tariff should be regulated in order to give more encouragement to the growth of their industry and not to encourage their neighbors' growth at the expense of the Canadian industry. Such assistance is necessary in the early years of the industry.

MARKET FOR CANADIAN NORTHERN BONDS.

Discussing the market for the next Canadian Northern loan, Mr. H. M. P. Eckardt, in an interesting article, writes: "So far as London is concerned, it is regarded as quite certain that bonds on which the Dominion government is merely guarantor will not sell as well as bonds on which the Dominion is the direct or prime obligant. Another point is that London is fairly well filled up with Canadian issues, and the underwriters there may well be reluctant to commit themselves to fresh loans of importance. So there are reports now current that tentative arrangements have been made for floating a Canadian Northern Railway Dominion guaranteed loan in New York in the event of parliament passing the necessary legislation. It is said that a large and prominent group of United States bankers may be connected with the flotation if it eventuates. Necessarily the rate would have to be attractive to ensure success. With conditions as at present it is difficult to see how the bonds could be put out in New York at less than 5 or 4½ per cent. One would think a 5 per cent. loan with the Dominion government's guarantee ought to attract American investors."

Mr. Robert Meredith was re-elected president of the Montreal Mining Exchange. The other officers for the ensuing year are as follows:—Adin E. Bryant, vice-president; Harrison B. Young, secretary-treasurer; committee, H. S. Byrant and Albert K. Shorey.