

ADVANCE CHAPTER OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA DURING THE CALENDAR YEARS 1907 AND 1908.

(Tons used throughout this report are short tons of 2,000 lbs., except where otherwise stated.)

IRON AND STEEL.

INTRODUCTION.

The accompanying statistical review of the iron industry in Canada is divided into two sections; the first dealing with the production of iron ores, and the second with the production of pig iron and steel.

Although iron ores are of wide occurrence throughout Canada, being found in practically every province, and in many cases in undoubted quality and quantity, nevertheless, the development of our iron ore deposits has not kept pace with the growth of our iron metallurgical industries.

The total production of iron ore in Canada up to date, has probably not exceeded 5,000,000 tons, while our present rate of production varies from 300,000 to 400,000 tons per annum.

Newfoundland, where we obtain from 650,000 to 700,000 tons per annum for use at Sydney—is producing close to 1,000,000 tons per year. Since 1898, or during the past thirteen years, we have imported nearly 3,000,000 tons of ore, chiefly from Newfoundland and the south shore of Lake Superior, for use in our Canadian smelters. The reasons for this large importation of ores, when we have apparently such important and extensive deposits of our own, are, probably, chiefly economic.

In Nova Scotia the Newfoundland ores can be laid down at Sydney more cheaply and more certainly than the local ores, while in Ontario, although numerous iron ranges are known across the northern portion of the Province north of Lakes Superior and Huron, questions of transportation have undoubtedly delayed their development in some cases, while in others the ores are of too low grade to compete with the other sources of supply.

At the present time there are in Canada about seven or eight producing mines, and of these, only one, the Helen mine, is producing over 100,000 tons per annum.

During the past few years the Mines Branch has been carrying on special investigations into the iron ore resources of Canada, and the following reports have already been published:—

The Iron Ore Deposits of Nova Scotia, by Dr. J. E. Woodman.

The Iron Ore Deposits of Thunder Bay and Rainy River District, Ontario, by F. Hille, M.E.

The Tungsten Ores of Canada, by Dr. T. L. Walker.

Chromite Iron Ore Deposits of the Eastern Townships, Quebec, by Fritz Cirkel, M.E.