

costly. And because the better condition of labor is an outcome of a higher civilization in which skill is more than force, it counts higher in the world's work, and is more worthy of encouragement than labor furnished under inferior social conditions. But, other things being equal, an article will sell in proportion to the cost of the labor expended upon it, and the importation of the low-cost goods may thus become very prejudicial to the local industry. It does not follow, however, that the foreign country is better fitted for production, even if it can produce at a cheaper figure; the home manufactures are equally capable, but are under the pressure of higher general standards of work and living. They have the first claim because they are the country's own, sharing its responsibilities and helping to develop its resources. Competition at home will keep down the prices to a reasonable level, the lowest that local conditions will permit, and to bring in the foreign-made article would be only to disturb the fair adjustment of cost and price.

Protection is therefore the only safeguard for labor. The cost of labor in the home market should be made the standard for all foreign goods entering in competition; that is to say, a sufficient duty should be imposed upon imports to make their cost equal to the lowest cost of the domestic article. Once put on this level, their competition would be purely on grounds of merit. Labor is one of our great national resources, and must, equally with other resources, be protected. The riches of the country are in its mines, its forests and its farms, but the strength of the country is in its laborers; and if those laborers are more skilled, live publicly and privately on a better scale, and share more intelligently in national life than their cheaper co-workers elsewhere, their superiority is rightly a matter of pride for us, as a nation, and is deserving of protection.

Canada's Mineral Wealth

THE mineral resources of Canada give an annual production of nearly seventy million dollars. Every part of the Dominion shares in this wealth. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have gold, iron, and coal; Quebec and Ontario have iron, gold, copper, and petroleum; Manitoba and the Territories have gold and coal; and British Columbia has gold, iron, coal, copper, and silver. Miscellaneous mineral deposits are distributed all over the country. In 1901 the total production was as follows:

Gold.....	\$24,462,222
Coal.....	14,671,122
Copper.....	6,600,104
Nickel.....	4,594,523
Lead.....	2,199,784
Iron.....	1,974,397
Asbestos.....	1,186,434
Coke.....	1,264,360
Miscellaneous (forty kinds)...	12,454,085
Total.....	\$69,407,031

In industrial value coal takes the leading place. The coal areas of Canada are estimated at over 97,000 square miles, with vast tracts in the far north as yet unworked. The amount of coal under surface in Nova Scotia alone is at least 7,000,000,000 tons, while the deposits in the Rockies and in British Columbia cover even a larger area. It is also claimed that a great coal belt exists across the Arctic Circle, stretching for three thousand miles along the islands north of Canada. Coal has been found there by explorers and it may be that some use will be made of these northern deposits when the tide of settlement pushes upward from the North-West. Between New Brunswick and Manitoba there is no coal known to exist in any considerable quantity. Central Canada is therefore, unfortunately, dependent upon the mines of Pennsylvania for her domestic and manufacturing supplies, and the disadvantages of being thus dependent