

Our Maritime Provinces have enjoyed better trade than for many years past ; new hope seems to have come to this section of the Dominion, and we find in many parts new enterprises springing up. In some places there has been a revival of the ship-building industry ; the coal trade and the lumber industry are said to be on a profitable and satisfactory basis. An industry of world-wide importance, and which will prove to be of national and local benefit, is now in course of development at Sydney in Cape Breton, under the name of the Dominion Iron & Steel Co.

The advantages under which this Company will operate, and the combination of strong men which are at its back, is a guarantee of its future success. The conditions favorable to successfully carrying on an iron and steel industry, such as I refer to, are chiefly two :—

1st.—That iron may be found in close proximity to coal beds, or that it may be transported cheaply to such a place.

2nd.—The favorable location of these coal beds from a transportation standpoint.

These conditions exist at Sydney, and from what information I have, it seems to me within the probabilities that competition can be favorably carried on at Sydney with any part of the world. I shall expect to see the products of that part of the Dominion shipped to countries which have formerly supplied Canada. So far as our own market is concerned, it is reasonable to expect that under our tariff law, as it now exists, which also embodies a bounty, we may hope to be supplied with those products within our own country, which in the past we have been obliged to import. The tremendous demand which has arisen for structural steel, for use in fire-proof and other buildings, is a market in itself ; it is to be regretted that we have been obliged to import all of this class of material. Canada annually imports over \$16,000,000 worth of manufactures of iron and steel, while the United States imports about \$12,000,000 worth.

From the north-western part of this Province comes information of the establishment of various new industries. Development is going on in the mineral regions of this part of Ontario, which with new railway enterprises promises to become a most important territory. In our Northwest and British Columbia many new railways are opening up new districts ; their construction has been somewhat retarded by shortage of labor supply. Exclusive of the railways which are being built in British Columbia there are thirteen new roads in process of construction in Manitoba and in Ontario west of Lake Superior ; there have been 351 miles of new railway built in Manitoba and it is claimed that 50,000 new settlers have taken up their abode in Manitoba and the Northwest during the past year. The influx of these new settlers will demand the opening up of new districts and more railway facilities. It is expected that there will soon be another line of railway completed which will tap the trade of new territory and convey the products of the West to the head of the lakes, where they will find an outlet through the great St. Lawrence system of inland navigation.

The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec differ somewhat in development from other parts of the Dominion. We are only commencing to realize the possibilities in the production of those food supplies suitable for the best European markets. Our farmers are evidently gradually learning of the vast trade which is open for them in producing food products of high excellence. The Dairy industry of Quebec has received an impetus as well as that of Cattle-raising. In the Province of Ontario, our farmers are also turning their attention more and more to the development of this industry. Our total exports of Cheese for fiscal year 1899 was \$15,171,968. This industry in this Province is said to have reached its proper level, so far as quantity is concerned ; the chief endeavor now is to improve the quality.