

of Torbrook ores, while the old company handled an amount far exceeding that, so that the question as to the suitability of these ores can easily be determined and proven.

First, as to the cost of mining, Torbrook ore can be mined at as low or lower cost than any other suitable quality of iron ore obtainable in Canada, and, further, it is probably the cheapest ore to break underground on this continent. As to the quality, the average of the ore taken from that district for some years past yielded between 52 and 55 per cent. in metallic iron with the silica running from about eight to eleven per cent. In the case of the high silica it was mainly a matter of mining and could have been easily overcome by more careful clobbering at the mine. As to the extent of the ore deposit, the



The Londonderry Iron & Mining Co.'s Pine Brook Quarry.

possible quantity has been placed as high as one hundred million tons and this by very good authorities, but it is certainly easy to prove that there would be at least one-tenth of this quantity or ten million tons in the district mentioned, of ore of the quality referred to.

At present, working in a small area the Londonderry Iron & Mining Company has been taking out for its own requirements two thousand tons per month. This will shortly be increased to about four thousand tons per month, and if there is the demand for the ore it can be increased to an output of one thousand tons per day or more, it being simply, as in the case of Londonderry, a question of a mining operation, or, in other words, increasing the mining facilities by additional development, plant and

workmen. Taking an average run of ore mined and delivered from Torbrook, I find that the iron contents averaged between 52 and 54 per cent., the silica from 7.94 to 11 per cent., mainly below ten per cent., the phosphorus from 1 to 1¼ per cent., manganese .150, lime about 2.50 to 3.50 and sulphur from .010 to .035. The ore is a red hematite and free smelting, and any one conversant with iron ores will readily admit that the quality is more than equal to the average class of ores that are being imported.

THE U. S. TARIFF ON ZINC ORES.

The following letter, addressed by Mr. L. M. Shaw, Secretary of the United States Treasury, to Senator Stone, on the above subject, has been made public. Mr. Shaw writes:

"With reference to the tariff on zinc ore, I beg to say that I have no doubt of the correctness of the following propositions:

"First—Lead-bearing ores, within the spirit of the law, must bear sufficient lead to justify its reduction for the retention of this lead. From the best information available it appears that 4 per cent. of lead is sufficient to justify its reduction and retention. Instructions will therefore follow not to consider as lead-bearing ores, such ores as bear less than 4 per cent. of lead.

"Second—I have no doubt that calamine zinc is entitled to free entry, for the statute so provides.

"Whether sulphides of zinc are free or dutiable is by no means easily determined. Section 614 of the Dingley tariff act, included in the free list, reads as follows:—

"'Minerals, crude or not advanced in value or condition by refining or grinding or by other process of manufacture not specially provided for in this act.'

"This section relates to minerals of all kinds, and includes sulphates of zinc. It would therefore appear that sulphide of zinc in its crude form should be admitted free. Unfortunately, however, Section 183 of the same act appears to be in direct conflict, for it reads:—

"'Metallic mineral substances in crude state and metals unwrought, not specially provided for in this act, 20 per cent. ad valorem.'

"Sulphide of zinc is a metallic mineral substance, and in its crude state would seem to be dutiable at 20 per cent. Section 614, the free section, refers to minerals generally, and includes metallic substances, as well as every other character and kind, while Section 183 relates solely to metallic mineral substances. The unfortunate feature of the ambiguity arises from the fact that the free section includes the dutiable substances when not specially provided for. If it were reversed, and the dutiable section referred to all minerals and the free section to metallic substances, it could be easily solved. I reach the conclusion that the proper tribunal to interpret these two apparently conflicting sections is the court, and the only way to present the case to the court is to exact duty on sulphides of zinc. The importer can protect his rights, and the government's rights will be protected. Instructions will therefore follow accordingly."

In commenting on the above letter Mr. J. R. Holmes, chairman of the committee appointed to defend the interests of the producers of the Joplin District, in the event of an appeal in the case against the importations of foreign zinc ore, remarks:—

"The above is the first definite and authoritative statement issued by the treasury department and emphasizes the importance of the steps taken by the district committee to raise funds for the prosecution of these matters in the courts, and secure the enforcement of their interpretation of the tariff laws. The necessity of immediate action is so apparent that it does not admit of argument.

"All the preliminaries of engaging counsel, securing witnesses and securing funds should have been taken even before this time, and it is not too late even now, but no more time should be wasted in idle talk. The decision of the treasury department that lead-bearing ore must contain 4 per cent. is far from satisfactory. This ruling would only impose a duty of \$1.20 a ton as against \$5 under the ad valorem clause. It is difficult to see the reasons on which such a ruling is based and the committee is unanimously of the opinion that it can be reversed either before the general board of appraisers or the United States Circuit Court, if the proper effort is made at once.

"That portion of the ruling which refers to crude ore is not considered important as no crude ore will be imported, though attempts may be made to ship concentrates as crude ore, and if so, they will be inevitably defeated. In his reference to calamine, Secretary Shaw has overlooked or failed to see the point made by the committee, which visited Washington. The committee admitted that calamine was an