

figure, and, if he is to continue in business, he will see to it that the work is done properly, and at the lowest cost. The owner has full control over what is going on, and is entirely freed from that word of all words in contracting "extras," and also has the advantage of being in a position to purchase all his material on a cash basis, which in most cases would result in a very considerable saving.

THE CASE OF IRON AND STEEL.

The farmers asked the Government to cease bonusing iron and steel on the ground that the industries have received from eight to ten million dollars in the last ten years and are, therefore, old enough to walk alone. They may suppose that the iron and steel industries of Canada are in a more commanding position than any other. There is no other branch of manufactures in which so many changes occur, as are forced by those who have command of great plants, great capital and great resources in scientific knowledge, as in the iron and steel industries. It takes longer than eight or ten years to achieve the end for which bounties on iron and steel were first granted. The farmer applauds the wisdom of encouraging British trade relations with Canada rather than American. He cannot dissent from the proposition that it is even better to encourage the development of our own resources by our own people on our own soil, than it is to multiply transactions with our brethren across the sea. For the more occupations we can establish that will bring them to us, will be better for them; as well as for us.

The exploitation of the iron and steel deposits of Canada is only in its infancy. It is right and proper that the Government should persistently encourage their development. This year the Canadian Northern Railway will be extended to the Hutton mines, north of Sudbury, ore from which can then be transported to Toronto, where blast furnaces will be established under Canadian control. Iron ore will also be brought from mines west of Port Arthur to smelting works at that city, also under Canadian control.

These are two examples of what is being accomplished by Canadians. But our pushful neighbors are not slow to act along the same lines, with a view virtually to annexing even more of commercial Canada than they already possess. For example, the Bessemer Ore Company has been formed by Americans to explore territory close to the north shore of Lake Superior. They have, within the last three months discovered a deposit of high grade hematite ore, containing 200,000,000 tons only 25 miles east of Port Arthur. Over sixty test pits have been put down, most of them on the east and west ends of the deposit, which has been traced for a distance of five miles. The ore is within two or three feet of the surface, and the test pits have so far shown it to be continuous to a depth of 35 feet. Steam shovels could be used for mining after the preliminary shaking up of the ore with explosives.

The Canadian Bessemer Ore Company is naturally intended to minister to the iron and steel prosperity of the United States. If the logic of past events were different from what it is you might be

amused at the United States habit of expecting that many of the best commercial opportunities of Canada will naturally fall into Yankee hands. Here is "The Iron Age," a sober, well-informed journal of the highest repute the world over, discussing "The Canadian Bonus and Iron Ore Development," and showing how the great manipulators of ore, having apparently outlived their surprise that the Almighty should have placed priceless treasures of metal north of the Minnesota boundary, have naturally assumed that they are the appointed exploiters of these assets.

While it is admitted that prospecting has not been neglected, that the establishment of two large steel companies has conduced to the development of our ore supplies, it is asserted that the exploration north of Lake Superior in the hope of finding the continuation of the remarkable formation which has given Minnesota its pre-eminence among the ore-producing states, has been carried on by American rather than Canadian interests. If the farmer would like to know something more about our neighbors' attitude to iron and steel in Canada, he might discover it in this paragraph:—"The fact that strong and long-established steel companies in the United States have a far greater stake in getting control of any important ore finds that may be made in Canada than have Canadian steel manufacturers themselves, is likely to be a prominent factor in iron mining development across the border, and one that will count for more than any preferential bonus on pig-iron into which Canadian ores enter. The Moose Mountain properties, north of Sudbury, Ont., acquired last year by well-known capitalists experienced in iron and steel manufacture in the United States, are already being put in shape to ship to this side in 1907, and it is quite well assured that these ores will practically all find their destination in this country. Significant also is the fact that American interests, rather than Canadian interests, have brought to light Bessemer ores of greater extent and value than was at first credited in the Thunder Bay district east of Port Arthur. It would be natural to expect that whatever is desirable in this or in other districts contiguous to Lake Superior, would ultimately be acquired to reinforce the position of important steel companies on this side. On a smaller scale the situation is comparable with that which made the Steel Corporation the one interest with which Mr. Hill was willing to treat when he brought his big ore tonnage to market. Among the American steel companies, with tens of millions of investment and with ore supplies still sufficient for the farther future, measured by the standard set by the Steel Corporation's reserves, it is a question if there will not always be one whose willingness and ability to acquire a Canadian ore property of proved value will be sufficient to distance Canadian competition."

Clearly, then, if the trend of trade in the United States is any criterion, Canada will have no independence in iron and steel unless she takes her own strong measures to develop her own resources in her own way. Under prevailing conditions about half the pig-iron used in Canadian manufacture is imported. The ores of Minnesota are brought near to the coal of Pennsylvania; and their product could be brought