

at 80 cents to 1 dollar, or 4s. per ton. Mr. Forbes considers half this cost sufficient.

The price of coal in Pictou is \$2 to \$2.50 per ton of 2,240 lbs. Small coal for coking is \$1 to \$1.50 per ton. Many of the coal seams make an excellent hard coke, which can be supplied in any quantity.

Wood for purposes of construction, and for charcoal-making, is abundant and cheap. Limestone is abundant in the vicinity, and is quarried and sold for 40 cts. per ton. Excellent fire-bricks have been manufactured in the neighbourhood.

The County of Pictou, being one of the most populous in Nova Scotia, and already the seat of considerable mining industries, presents great facilities for obtaining skilled labour, machinery, and supplies; labour ranges from 4s to 6s per diem.

There is a large and growing market in Canada for iron of all descriptions, there being many Railways in course of construction, and to be built, including the Pacific Railway through British Territory, for which the Parliament of Canada have voted large land grants, and thirty millions of dollars. The total value of the exports of pig iron and manufactured iron from ports of the United Kingdom to Canada during 1872 amounted to over \$11,000,000. For 1873 to over \$8,000,000. There is also a large importation of iron and rails from the United States.

The high character of Nova Scotia iron is well known in England, and is thus described by Sir Wm. Fairbairn in his "History of Iron:"—"In Nova Scotia some of the richest ores yet discovered, occur in exhaustless abundance. The iron manufactured from them is of the very best quality, and is equal to the finest Swedish metal. Several specimens have been submitted to direct experiment, and the results prove its high powers of resistance to strain, durability, and the adaptation to all those processes by which the finest descriptions of iron and steel are manufactured."

From the richness of the ores of Nova Scotia, and the abundance and cheapness of fuel, coal, coke and charcoal, it is confidently asserted that the highest class of iron can be manufactured for less than the cost of ordinary English pig iron.

The cost of producing Bessemer pig iron in Nova Scotia, for which some of the Pictou ores are suitable, will not exceed \$15 per ton. In this estimate an allowance of 50 per cent. over actual cost is made for contingencies. From the great variety of the ores, Bessemer as well as ordinary Foundry pig can be made at Pictou.