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### THE MONTH.

IN the *Engineering Magazine* for December Mr. Mortimer Lamb has collected all known data about the admittedly vast deposits of iron ore in British Columbia. The statement made some years ago by Dr. G. M. Dawson that the iron ores of British Columbia "wait to realize their true importance, merely the circumstances which would render their working on a large scale remunerative," is quoted and the comment made, "That conditions are now favourable for the development of these resources would appear from the interest that is being shown

#### IRON RESOURCES OF THE PROVINCE.

and the enquiry that is being made at the present time, by men intimately associated with the iron industry in the United States concerning the extensive bodies of magnetite found on Vancouver and the neighboring islands and mainland." One of these favourable indications is undoubtedly that a periodical like the *Engineering Magazine* should take the trouble to illustrate and describe the iron resources of our province.

The industry of mining iron ores in British Columbia is as yet almost ludicrously infantile. The annual production has never exceeded 2,000 tons, but it is interesting to know that the metal, or at least four-fifths of it, incorporated in the framework of the U. S. warships Olympia, Monterey, Charleston and Oregon, and now circling the globe as part of these mighty engines of destruction, was mined in

British Columbia. To quote from the *Engineering Magazine* :—

"Although discoveries of large bodies of iron-bearing ores have been made in various localities of the Province at intervals since 1872, no annual production has much exceeded 2,000 tons, and on only one or two occasions has the aggregate output of one year reached that figure. The productive sources have been limited to three, or more properly speaking two, mines; one, the Glen Iron mine, on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at Cherry Bluff, near Kamloops, and the other the Puget Sound Iron Company's properties at Texada Island. In the case of the former the product has been exclusively used for fluxing purposes by the smelters at Tacoma, Revelstoke and Nelson, while the Texada ore has been shipped to Irondale, Washington Territory, and there smelted with a mixture of from 1-9 to 3-10 of bog ore, making an excellent foundry pig, which was subsequently marketed in San Francisco and utilized by the Union Iron Works in the construction of the U. S. warships Olympia, Monterey, Charleston and Oregon. In addition to the two mines mentioned, more or less extensive bodies of iron-bearing ores have been discovered at Sooke, Chemainus, and Barclay Sound on Vancouver Island; at Rivers and Knight Inlets on the Mainland coast; on the Queen Charlotte Islands and also in several localities of the inland districts of Similkameen and Cariboo.

"The Puget Sound Iron Company's property of 2,700 acres is situated on the south-west side of Texada Island. The ore-mass, which on the surface varies in width from 20 to 25 feet, is an irregular contact deposit between limestone and granite, traceable northward for nearly four miles along a ridge following the coast line, and distant from it a quarter to three-quarters of a mile. Sufficient development work has been done to expose an ore-body estimated by experts as representing 5,000,000 tons of commercially valuable iron in sight. In the course of development at one point copper in the form of solid pyrites was found in irregular bunches and stringers in the magnetite, but with increased depth this disappeared. Analyses of the ore have been made on several occasions in the laboratory of the Canadian Geological Survey, one result showing 68.40 per cent. of iron with only .003 per cent. of phosphorus, but a more detailed test gave :

Iron . . . . .	69.85
Manganese . . . . .	Trace
Silicious matter . . . . .	2.75
Sulphur . . . . .	.06
Phosphoric Acid . . . . .	Trace
Moisture . . . . .	Trace

After describing the other known deposits of iron in the Province the article concludes as follows :