Canadian iron blast furnaces continue to be operated largely on imported ores and fuels, only about 17 per cent of the ore consumption and 54 per cent of the fuel used in 1915 being of domestic origin.

The imports of iron and steel which reached a maximum in 1913 show a further falling off in 1915 amounting in value to just half that of the former year. The exports, however, continue to increase, the value in 1915 being over three times that of the exports in 1914.

During the earlier months of the year, low prices, a restricted market, and sharp competition pressed heavily upon the operators forcing the marketing of steel at the lowest possible margin. As the year progressed, however, the enormous demand for munitions and war requirements rapidly absorbed available stocks until before the close of the year market requirements could not be met. The installation of new open-hearth furnaces was undertaken at several plants, while a number of small electric furnace units were also constructed and others projected in an attempt to meet the demand.

The following table compiled and published by the "Iron Trade Review," Cleveland, O., shows in a comprehensive way the variation in price during 1915 of all the more important classes of iron and steel products, clearly indicating the rapid upward tendency during the last six months of the year.