

*Customs Tariff*

to a little more than sixty years, less, in each case, such period as will compensate for a gradually increasing production to care for a growing per capita consumption of iron and steel products and any wider distribution that would result from decreased transportation rates.

Now on page 56, and this is the last quotation I shall give from the report, they say:

The supplies available to open market from whence we draw our requirements, must continue to dwindle at an accelerating pace, and long before the conclusion of the estimated thirty-two year period, we must provide for our own requirements from our own resources, or pay a profit to the United States producers of iron ore that will place our steel companies in Ontario in a position where they will experience real difficulty in competition against foreign prices.

These are just a few paragraphs from the report which will repay the reading by any hon member in this House and particularly the hon. gentlemen to my left, because they oppose bounties, oppose anything in the shape of protection, in spite of the fact that most of the countries of the world have built up their industrial life under protection. The United States iron development to-day is the greatest iron development in the world barring none. It surpasses that of Great Britain. Before the war Germany surpassed Great Britain in that respect, or was about to surpass her. The United States much surpasses Great Britain, and she produces a vastly larger amount of iron and steel products per year than does the Mother Country. The United States built up her iron and steel industry upon a protective system—not by a direct bounty perhaps, but by a high protective duty against iron ores from other countries.

I submit that Canada should develop some of these vast natural resources of which we are continually speaking. Some years ago I used to speak a good deal more about the natural resources of this country than I do now, but I came to the conclusion that it was rather tiresome for the people of Canada to be continually listening to our public men speaking of our vast natural resources when those resources were of no use unless we developed them. Unless we develop them we might just as well not have the resources at all. Possibly that is an extreme position because in the future they may be used; but so far as the present generation is concerned unless we develop some of these resources they are of no use to us, or of no use to the country. We might as well talk of the salt of the ocean as the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Ryckman) interjects. The point is that we have to fight to-day to have anything done to develop these natural resources. With respect to the oil bounties the Acting Minister of Finance is intending to cut off

[Mr. Manion.]

the bounty now granted; and yet in the case of iron ore the Conservative government of Ontario at the present time is proposing to adopt a method by which these natural resources can be developed.

Earlier this afternoon hon. gentlemen to my left asked why we could not do this in competition with the United States. Well, it is a common sense proposition. A country which started ahead of another in its development, and is much richer, as the United States is, has a vast advantage over the country which has not done that. There has never been much development in Canada so far as iron ore is concerned. The most we ever took out of our mines, I think, was something like 200,000 tons, and this came mostly from the rich Helen mine, the Magpie mine, and other mines in the Sault Ste. Marie district. Outside of that we have done practically nothing in connection with the development of our resources of iron ore. The United States began to develop its iron resources in the lake Superior region, but the ore there was not the rich soft variety which one hon. gentleman mentioned this afternoon. That was the type of iron which in some of their mines they could dig out with a steam shovel. It was only after they had mined iron ore over a period of years that the type of iron was much like the iron which we have to-day. It was hard, difficult to work, but by the cutting, the digging and so forth which go on to develop these mines, they reached those richer deposits which they have to-day and they have now the greatest iron and steel development in the world or in the history of the world, so that Canada, I think, might well copy some of their methods.

Mr. WARNER: Does the hon. member want to convey the idea that the hard substance that the iron is found in in the first place is over what they are getting with the steam shovel now?

Mr. MANION: I did not wish to convey anything, but I wish to say that much of their rich ore was discovered after development had taken place. The hon. member is pointing out that some of what is uncovered now is uncovered and dug out by a steam shovel. That is quite correct, and I have no interest in stating anything which is not a fact. But in many cases the rich ore of the United States was discovered after the poorer ore had been worked off the surface, and the richer ore was discovered after they had worked deeper down into the mine. Is it common sense to imagine that after the international boundary was reached the good Lord