



Tug "Lighted" bringing government ore from Texada Island, British Columbia, to this company's plant at Burnaby for test in electric furnace.

B. C. IRON ORE EXPERIMENTS TO START—TEN THOUSAND TONS WILL BE TAKEN FOR FURNACES HERE

Hon. Wm. Sloan, on the Floor of the House, Asking the Legislature for Authority to Secure Ore

Ample Supply Believed to be Available for Production of Pig-Iron

One Plant Located on False Creek, the Other in Burrard Sound

(Province, March 14th)

As another step in the direction of encouraging the development of the magnetite iron deposits of British Columbia and the establishment of an iron and steel industry—those preceding having been the offer of a bounty on a pig-iron produced in the province, and the obtaining of a report from Dr. Alfred Stansfield, professor of metallurgy, McGill University, on the commercial feasibility of treating the iron ores of the province by means of electro-smelting—Hon. Mr. Sloan, Minister of Mines, is today asking the

British Columbia Legislature for authority to take from any of the iron properties of the province a quantity of ore, not to exceed 10,000 tons aggregate, for experimental uses. There are at present two small furnaces situated near Vancouver and owned by two distinct and enterprising companies, which are prepared to take advantage of the terms of this legislation. Brief reference to the proposal has already been made in The Province. The cost to the government will be \$50,000, it is stated.

Large Scale Expectations

From this it will be seen that both these companies are confident, or at least very optimistic, in regard to the practicability of treating the iron ores of British Columbia and producing merchantable pig-iron at a cost that will permit the meeting of local and perhaps outside market requirements. They claim they have the plants necessary for satisfactory experiment, and it is Mr. Sloan's intention to do what can be done to assist them in making the attempt.

If they are successful he thinks it not too extravagant to hope that from their small beginnings will spring industries which will exploit the iron ore resources of the province on a larger scale and eventually lead to the establishment in the Canadian Northwest of the network of allied industries which follow the production of iron and steel on a large scale. And Mr. Sloan makes it clear that any other companies prepared to undertake such experiments in British Columbia also will be accorded every possible consideration.

In support of the efforts he is making to assist and encourage those who are disposed to enter into the utilization and the development of the iron ore deposits of the province, Mr. Sloan points to the history of the industry in Nova Scotia. From a little forge shop with a capital of \$1,000 and ten employees it had developed into a great Canadian industry, and one of the most notable industrial enterprises on the American continent. In view of this experience he thought that he was justified before the members of the legislature, and would be backed up by the country generally, in extending all assistance possible to companies which were prepared, no matter on how small a scale at the start, to demonstrate the practicability of producing high-grade pig-iron from the raw material now lying undeveloped in large quantities in British Columbia.

EXTRACTS FROM BULLETIN No. 2, 1919, BRITISH COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES

As mentioned above, the development of electric reducing has been most marked during the last few years in Sweden. At present some fourteen high furnaces are in operation, and the total output represents about 140,000 tons of pig-iron per annum. This pig is of the highest quality that can be made, and it commands, therefore, high prices. It is mostly used in Sweden for producing high-grade steel, but a certain amount is also sold to the Sheffield market. There are, further, many more installations contemplated, and it is safe to say that wherever there is cheap water power the OLD BLAST FURNACE will be replaced by electric producers. I have thought for a long time that greater economy could be obtained by separating the two stages of the smelting process and carrying them out in separate furnaces.—Alfred Stansfield, D.Sc., A.R.S.M., F.R.S.C., Professor of