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OUR MINES.

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this quality that can get." Professor Thomas
Heys, of this city, who examined this ore
bed, makes a similar report regarding the
quality of the ore, and estimates there are at
least one million tons of ore within one
hundred feet of the surface.

THE SNOWDEN IRON DISTRICT,

40 miles north-east of Lindsay, contains good
Bessemer ore, very free from impurities.
Analyses show 62 to 63 metallic iron; phos-
phorus, trace; sulphur, 0.025; titanium,
none. In order to be of Bessemer quality,
the amount of phosphorus must be very small,
the limit in a sixty per cent. ore being 0.06.
When the analysis shows a trace only, this
means less than 0.005 per cent. phosphorus,
or less than one-tenth of the allowance for
Bessemer ore. These analyses therefore,
show our ore to be more than usually free
from impurities even for Bessemer ore.

To be convinced of the benefit of working
an iron mine, a person should go to the
neighborhood of an active mine and judge for
himself.

THE BLAIRTON MINE,

in Peterborough County, at one time employ-
ed between 300 and 400 men, at wages from
\$1 to \$1.25 per day, paying out from \$1,800
to \$2,500 weekly for wages alone. There
was employment for every able-bodied man
and boy for miles around. The farmers
from surrounding townships found ready sale
for produce at prices equal to the Peterbor-
ough market.

With many of our iron deposits the duty
of 75 cents per ton simply prevents their
being worked; it makes all the difference
between a profit and a loss. It is a question
of existence, to be or not to be. Yet some
restrictionists have asked, "Cannot you
work your iron mines at a profit and pay the
75 cents per ton duty?" After inspecting
the Belmont mine, before referred to, an
American expert stated that within a short
time after commencing work on it he would
be taking out 400 tons of ore a day; the duty
on this would be \$300 a day. Perhaps the
restrictionists will kindly tell us how they
would like an unnecessary tax of \$300 a day
on any one of their businesses.

The points that I have endeavored to prove
are that we have first class ores; that in many
cases the duty of 75 cents per ton prevents
these ores being mined; that the removal of
the duty would benefit both Canadians and
Americans alike.

SMELTING FURNACES

I have so far only noticed the question of
exporting ores to the United States, but
there are large quantities of poorer ore
which would not pay to export, but which
could be very profitably smelted on the spot
if we had a market large enough to induce
capitalists to put up the necessary works.
A blast furnace takes considerable capital
both to erect and run it. There are many
suitable points for blast furnaces in
our mineral country where ore and charcoal
can be had at the lowest cost and where
there is every facility for making iron, the
market only being wanting. There are nu-
merous deposits of bog ore or brown hema-
tite containing 35 to 45 per cent. of iron,
which are suitable for a local furnace, but are
of no value otherwise. One ordinary-sized
furnace would employ in its own work and

from Canadian ore? Not a bit of it. These
rails were bought in England, probably made
from Spanish ore, and in their manufacture
did not contribute one dollar's worth of
benefit to any Canadian, although simi-
lar ore from which the rails are made
lies almost alongside the railway track. Is
this loyalty to ourselves, to send money out
of the country for articles which we can
manufacture ourselves, four-fifths of the
value of which would be distributed to pay
for the labour of our own miners and
mechanics? Instead of doing this, our money
has gone to pay Spanish miners and English
labourers, who care nothing for us and could
not, probably, point out our country on the
map.

CONSUMPTION OF IRON PYRITES AND OTHER MINERALS.

The consumption of iron pyrites for mak-
ing sulphuric acid is rapidly increasing in the
United States. In 1886, 112,000 tons were
consumed. The duty of 750. per ton is a
heavy tax on this article, as pyrites is only
worth about \$4.50 per ton in New York, but
if there was no duty a large trade would be
done, as we have many deposits of pyrites
suitable for this purpose. Large quantities
of copper ore would be shipped to the
States were it not for the duty. In the
Nipissing and Algoma districts new
and important discoveries of copper have
lately been made, but here again the tariff
bars the way. The United States duty on
lead ore is prohibitory, and there is little
encouragement to develop our galena veins,
although, no doubt, we have abundance of
this useful mineral, and the same remark ap-
plies to several other minerals, notably to
the salt industry, which suffers greatly
through restriction.

ABSURDITY OF OUR PRESENT TRADE RELA- TIONS.

Let any unprejudiced man of common-
sense, either American or Canadian, stand
before a map of North America, and, after
carefully tracing the boundary line between
us, say why the inhabitants of this great con-
tinent, who are of the same race, the same
language, the same religion, and who have
the same interests, should interpose hostile
tariffs against each other. Did nature ever
intend that artificial barriers should be placed
where only an imaginary line separates us?
I would suggest that the Commercial Union
Club hang on its walls a map of North
America, on which there should be a black
line, drawn broad and deep along the boundary
line between Canada and the United States,
so that the absurdity may clearly appear of
trying to keep apart two portions of the
same continent which nature intended to be
commercially one. Then if you like, run a
red line round the outside boundary of both
showing the vastness of the country we should
have to trade in were the barriers thrown
down, and on the heading of the map place
this motto, which should also be the motto of
our club, "Let us have free trade with our
own continent, our natural market."

At the close of the paper an interesting
discussion took place on the views presented.
Those taking part being Messrs. J. N. Blake,
W. H. L. Gordon, Samuel D. Mills, H. C.
Jones, Mercer Adam and C. M. Dobson.