

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; phosphorus, 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 employed 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 Peterborough 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 numerous deposits of bog ore or brown hematite 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 similar 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 making sulphuric acid is rapidly increasing in the United States. In 1886, 112,000 tons were consumed. The duty of 75c. 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 applies to several other minerals, notably to the salt industry, which suffers greatly through restriction.

#### ABSURDITY OF OUR PRESENT TRADE RELATIONS.

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 continent, 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.