

Within the Dominion the deposits of iron ores, as a rule, are in the immediate vicinity of the coal beds or of the great forests, whence the required supply of charcoal can be derived. The rapid extension of our railway system offers a ready market for large quantities of iron, both for construction and repair, and the demand for ordinary consumption is steadily increasing, a proof of which is given by the amount of imports during the past five years.

For the five years ending June 30th, 1873 :—

	Paying 15 per cent.		Paying 5 per cent.		Free.
1869.—	\$2,132,021	....	\$1,817,800	....	\$2,223,889
1870.—	2,366,265	....	1,793,876	....	2,487,496
1871.—	3,110,161	....	2,449,369	....	3,404,796
1872.—	3,840,859	....	3,247,172	....	6,163,969
1873.—	4,642,299	....	4,842,148	....	11,510,443
Total, 15 per cent.....					
" 5 "					
" Free					
\$16,091,605					
14,150,365					
25,790,593					
\$56,032,563					

The amount of money which annually leaves the country to pay the wages, profits, interest, &c., on its imports on this one item of trade, might, under a judicious system of protection, be expended in it, and afford employment to thousands who annually emigrate in search of labour more suited to their inclinations than that solely of the agriculturist. Diversity of industry is absolutely necessary if we are sincerely desirous of retaining our native born population, and increasing our numbers by attracting others from abroad. Were our supplies of iron cut off or curtailed from any cause whatsoever, in what condition would our industries depending to day on foreign sources, find themselves?

It is a question in what way the development of our iron mines may be best promoted, whether by a duty or a bonus? After careful examination of the subject, a duty appears the fairest and most feasible, as its benefits would be in direct proportion to the capital invested and enterprise displayed; while it would be difficult to limit the number of establishments to which a bonus should be given and the amount to be accorded to each. A bonus might induce the erection of works on too limited a capital, and in a district in which no good results could eventually accrue; on the other hand, with a duty which acted equally for all, capitalists would only be disposed to invest in enterprises promising to be commercially successful.

Of course, in view of the production of iron in the country to-day being so very limited, it is hardly to be expected that Government should impose a duty on the importation of pig and other iron, except for revenue purposes; but it can be shewn that, if there is a certainty of a duty being imposed, should the development of this industry assume large proportions, capitalists in England are prepared to commence operations on some of our iron mines within a short time, on a very extensive scale, and with considerable capital.

C. FITZGERALD.

Ottawa, April 14th, 1874

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

This branch of business has generally been of a profitable character up to the year 1870, since which time it has not done quite so well, owing, principally, to the Americans sending their surplus into the Canadian market. Therefore, suggest that a tariff similar to that of the United States be put on agricultural implements.

With respect to the Patent Law, suggest that a board of practical men be appointed to inspect the article sought to be patented, so as to know whether it contains the principal parts of an article previously entered for patent; such second application should be rejected. By means of the board mentioned, all models would be examined and the deserving only receive patents.