

THE IRON INDUSTRY.

Attention has been awakened by the discussion on the Iron and Coal Industries, since the introduction of the new tariff, as to our supply of iron ore and capacity for its manufacture.

Much has been written from time to time on this subject by the geological survey and others, but the information submitted is in so scattered a form as not to be convenient to the general public. It is the object of the second issue of this pamphlet to give a concise report of some of the more important iron deposits of the Dominion, with the number and capacity of our blast furnaces and mills.

The tables annexed show that the importation of iron since 1872, aggregates \$96,387,420.00, which money has been sent out of the country for an article we possess in great abundance, and for the manufacture of which we possess all the necessary facilities at home.

The statistics of the English, American and Belgian iron trade, herewith submitted, show the commercial importance of this industry to the countries developing it.

IRON DEPOSITS OF THE DOMINION.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Magnetic Iron Ore.

(*Texada Island, B.C.—Geological Survey.*)

"This important deposit occurs in crystalline rock supposed to be of Carboniferous age. The largest exposure is on the south side of the island, about three miles north-west of Gillies' Bay. Here the ore-bed is seen to be from twenty to twenty-five feet thick, and to rest on grey crystalline limestone, with which, for about two feet down, are interstratified bands of ore, of from half-an-inch to one inch in thickness. From this point to the north-west, for nearly a mile, the bed is occasionally seen, and at one place there is a continuous exposure about 250 feet long and from one to ten feet thick. To the north-east it is also said to have been traced for more than three miles. As regards mining and shipment the ore is most favorably situated, while in the event of smelting operations being carried on, there is an abundance of wood suitable for making charcoal on the island, and Comox Harbour, from which the coal of the Comox area will be shipped, is less than twenty miles distant."

The ore is of an iron-grey colour, and frequently contains little cavities, which hold red or yellow ochre. Sometimes the cavities are lined with octahedral crystals of magnetite. A partial analysis of a specimen collected by Mr. James Richardson,