

most clearly demonstrated was that intelligent treatment of it is impossible, from a public point of view, until more information is available than is at present within reach. Mr. Carmichael, the Provincial Assayer, properly pointed out that without data having official sanction, it would be extremely difficult to interest outside capitalists. As he said, private information may be just as complete and just as trustworthy as that officially compiled, but it will not carry the same amount of weight. It would not have been consistent with Mr. Carmichael's official position for him to have followed this up with any recommendation, publicly at least, whatever he may do in conversations with the head of his department. Persons who have had occasion to discuss the iron industry with prospective investors, have felt the lack of just such information as Mr. Carmichael speaks of. It might be well if the government would direct special attention to the compilation of definite matter bearing on this subject. This would call for the assignment of the duty of compiling it to some individual with a knowledge of the subject matter, but there can be no doubt as to the value of the report made by such a person. The Department of Mines cannot, in our opinion, address itself to a subject from which more immediate or more valuable results are likely to be derived.

In connection with the production of iron in British Columbia for export to countries beyond seas, mention may be made of an advantage which a British Columbia smelter, properly located, would have over one in the State of Washington, using British Columbia ores. Take the case of the Irondale smelter, which uses ore from Texada. The ore costs the company for mining and delivery \$1.00, and a royalty of 50c. per ton is paid to the owners of the mine, the freight to the smelter is \$1.00, the cost of unloading is 15c., the duty is 40c., making the cost of the ore delivered at Irondale \$3.10. Two tons of ore are required to produce one ton of pig iron, which makes the cost of the raw material for a ton of pig iron at Irondale \$6.10. If a smelter were erected on Texada, the cost of the ore would be \$1.00 per ton, or \$2.00 per ton of pig iron, making a difference of \$4.10 in favor of the Texada product. Add to this the royalty of \$2.00 per ton on pig iron and we have a difference in favor of the Canadian product of \$6.10, that is to say, the Canadian smelter would get its raw material for nothing. These figures are given for purposes of comparison only, because they might not hold true in their entirety in respect to other iron deposits on the Coast, but they show a very satisfactory margin in favor of the British Columbia product as compared with the output of a smelter in the State of Washington, dependent chiefly upon this province for its ore supply.

#### THE SOUTH AFRICA INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Albert P. Baker, Esq., general manager of the South Africa British and Colonial Exhibition, has, from his Manchester, Eng., office, sent us a copy of a circular he is issuing to British and other manufacturers who may be proposing to make exhibits at the great fair that will be held at Cape Town, beginning in November, 1903, and continuing for the ensuing four months. Mr. Baker says that it has been deemed advisable by the manager of the Exhibition to issue this special notice so that immediate application may be made, giving some idea as to the probable space that may be required by proposing exhibitors, and that such applications will be the first to be considered when places and allotments are ready. The enthusiastic manner in which the exhibition matter has been taken up, the correspondence re space, and the congratulatory

letters from all parts of the Empire indicate that the enterprise is being received with the greatest favor, particularly as it is coincident almost with the close of the war and the re-opening of the vast South African markets to the commerce of the world. Mr. Baker has but recently returned to England from a six-months' journey through South Africa, including all the newly acquired British possessions, made in the interest of the Exhibition, and will be pleased to correspond with any of our manufacturers and to give them the benefit of the information he obtained while there. Some of the patrons of this important undertaking include Lord Milner, High Commissioner for South Africa; Sir J. Gordon Sprigg, Prime Minister of Cape Colony; Sir Frederick Young, vice-president of the Royal Colonial Institute; Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for Canada in London; the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., and a great many other gentlemen who take active interest in the affairs of South Africa and of the Exhibition. Mr. Baker informs us that he is already in receipt of a large number of applications and enquiries for space, so that this Exhibition promises to be one of the greatest successes ever yet held in the British Empire.

#### COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES OF PERU.

In an exceedingly interesting article entitled "The Land of the Incas," the Imperial Argus publishes some facts regarding the commercial possibilities of Peru which are of more than passing interest to Canadian manufacturers, as well as to those of the Mother Country. The possibilities of trade with that country are very great, and the openings are, or should be, quite as promising to the exporters of Canada as they are to those of Great Britain or the United States; and the facilities of transportation are quite as convenient to us as to our American competitors. Shall we avail ourselves of the openings the Peruvian market presents?

"It would be difficult," says the Imperial Argus, "to over-estimate the natural resources of this favored region, which only lacks what South Africa wants, and will surely get, a stable government and development. . . . To those who have been privileged to acquaint themselves only by reading and photographs with the cities of Lurja and Cuzco and the port of Callao, it seems strange to speak of Peru as being an undeveloped country; yet when it is remembered that with an area of one-seventh the size of Europe she has a population of under 4,000,000, half of whom are of Indian race, and consequently no lovers of labor, it will at once be seen that this must be so. The form of government does not lend itself to progress, and the habits of the people who are not Indians do not lean towards energy, and the result is a fertile, healthy, and comparatively peaceful land, possessed of natural wealth which exceeds the dreams of avarice, yet without proper facilities for transport, without anything approaching adequate cultivation, with mines unworked, forests untouched, and poverty stalking in the midst of plenty. The last word is not appropriate when applied to Peru, for though we know much we are still woefully ignorant of the true magnitude of her resources. How much do we know? Primarily that she has an unrivalled climate, tropical and sufficiently moist to aid agriculture, but not so humid as to provoke malaria, a climate which does not deal in extremes, which need not enervate but which can inspire. Then she has treasures of rubber and petroleum, which latter might easily rival the products of Borneo and Baku, not to speak of Texas; mineral wealth, such as gold, silver, copper, salt and coal; forests of rare woods, such as the walnut, toon rosewood, sandbox, and logwood; medicinal plants, such as cinchona, vanilla, ipecacu-