

the Trade and Navigation blue book annually published by the Department of Customs:—

Free machinery imported in 1898 of a value of	\$128,780
" " 1899	207,737
" " 1900	724,187
" " 1901	1,535,225
" " 1902	904,267

These figures are for the fiscal year ending 30th June.

The following figures show the value of the free and dutiable mining machinery imported during the past two years and the sources from which it was derived:—

	1901	1902
<i>Imported free of Duty—</i>		
From Great Britain	\$31,181	\$14,061
" France	2,136	50
" Austria	1,244	10,163
" Germany	1,496,664	793,881
" United States		
Total free machinery	\$1,535,225	\$848,155
<i>Imported subject to 25 per cent. duty—</i>		
From Great Britain	25,913	7,531
" Germany		81
" United States	56,600	48,500
Total imports of mining and smelting machinery	\$2,617,738	\$904,267

The figures in detail for the nine months from 1st January to 30th September last and the entries during the same period of the previous year show:—

MONTH	1901			1902		
	Free	Dutiable	Total	Free	Dutiable	Total
January...	\$111,134	\$4,196	\$115,330	\$92,984	\$2,549	\$95,533
February...	162,030	9,689	171,719	43,123	2,380	45,503
March...	62,185	806	62,991	55,255	2,629	57,884
April...	52,921	517	53,438	61,227	5,087	66,314
May...	259,309	6,180	265,489	90,820	4,782	95,602
June...	162,674	12,269	174,943	77,270	5,293	82,563
July...	58,919	4,267	63,186	47,511	2,171	49,682
August...	70,979	16,428	87,407	90,798	1,139	91,937
September...	84,479	599	85,078	82,090	8,906	90,996
Total...	\$1,024,630	\$54,951	\$1,079,581	\$641,078	\$34,936	\$676,014

The following table shows in detail the sources from which Canadian mining and smelting machinery were derived during the last nine months of the year:—

MONTH	United States		Great Britain		Other Countries	TOTAL
	Free	Dutiable	Free	Dutiable		
January...	\$66,236	\$2,549	\$26,328	...	\$420	\$95,533
February...	42,486	2,380	637	...	...	45,503
March...	54,980	1,720	275	\$909	...	57,884
April...	55,618	4,997	5,579	90	...	66,314
May...	90,623	4,782	197	...	...	95,602
June...	76,409	5,293	811	...	50	82,563
July...	47,444	2,171	...	...	67	49,682
August...	81,627	1,139	9,162	...	9	91,937
September...	81,608	8,535	180	371	302	90,996
For 9 mos.	\$597,061	\$33,566	\$43,169	\$1,370	\$848	\$676,014

While these figures show a falling off in the value of our imports compared with the same period in 1901, it is well to remember that last year was especially notable for opening up and equipment of

many new furnaces and smelters, and that in the earlier months of the present year mining activity in British Columbia was greatly restricted by labor troubles and a severe depression in the market for our silver-lead ores. This trade is, however, only in its infancy, and the continued expansion of mining activity throughout the Dominion will materially increase the value of our trade in mining machinery in the future.

Pig Iron Production.

The American Iron and Steel Association has received direct from the manufacturers the statistics of the production of pig iron in Canada in the first six months of 1902. The figures show a slight increase as compared with the last half of 1901, but a very great increase as compared with the first half of that year.

In the first six months of 1902 the production of all kinds of pig iron in the whole of the Dominion amounted to 157,894 gross tons, as compared with 149,952 tons in the last half of 1901, 95,024 tons in the first half of that year. The increase in the first half of 1902 over the last half of 1901 was 7,852 tons, or over 5 per cent, while the increase over the first half of 1901 was 62,780 tons, or over 66 per cent. Of the total production of the first half of 1901, 12,000 tons were Bessemer and basic pig iron. The coke furnaces made 147,392 tons and the charcoal furnaces 9,912 tons. Neither spiegeleisen nor ferro-manganese has been made in Canada for several years.

The unsold iron held by the Canada pig iron manufacturers on June 30, 1902, none of which was intended for their own gross consumption, amounted to 37,721 gross tons, as compared with 59,472 tons on December 31, 1901. Of the unsold iron on hand June 30, 1902, less than 2,000 tons were made with charcoal, the remainder being coke iron.

On June 30, 1902, Canada had 14 completed blast furnaces, of which eight were in blast and six were idle. Of this total nine were equipped to use coal for fuel, four to use charcoal and one to use mixed charcoal and coke. In addition three coke and two charcoal furnaces were being built on June 30, 1902 but work upon two of the coke furnaces was temporarily suspended.

The Ophir Fight.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have rendered a final decision in this long pending litigation in favor of the Ontario patentees, Messrs. E. Seybold *et al.*, who were represented in the Crown Land Department and in the Courts by Mr. J. M. Clark, K.C. The origin of the contest dates back to the "Boundary Dispute" between the Province of Ontario on the one hand and the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Manitoba on the other. This dispute was decided in favor of Ontario in 1878 by arbitrators but their award was repudiated by the Dominion. The matter was then referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, their decision in favor of Ontario being confirmed by Imperial legislation. The Dominion then claimed the land by virtue of the so-called Indian title. This claim was fought in the Courts and was decided both in the Canadian Courts and by the Privy Council in favor of Ontario. The last point in the series of questions arose in the present case in regard to a tract of land including Sultana Island which the Dominion authorities purported to set apart as an Indian reserve although the lands belonged to Ontario. This question is now finally decided. The statement of the law in regard to the question contained in McPherson & Clark's Law of Mines in Canada was approved in Canada and has now been confirmed by the Privy Council, the final authority in such matters.