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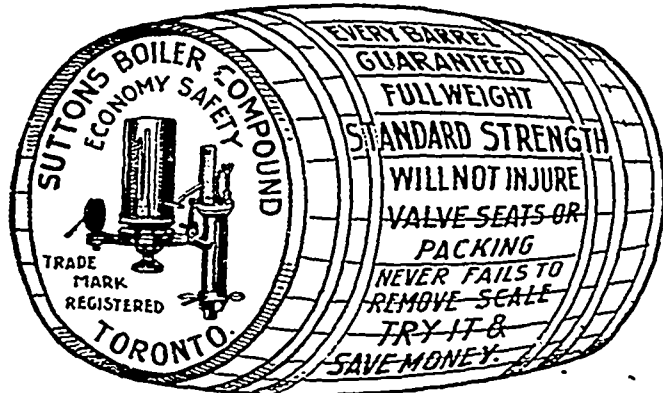
ply of ore for the great smelting works it is erecting in Sydney, Cape Breton. With iron and steel commanding such prices in the world's markets as they do to-day, and with these conditions likely to be maintained indefinitely, the idea of a smelter on Canada's Atlantic seaboard had much to commend it. Mr. Whitney had already acquired control of most of the coal mines in Cape Breton, and limestone abounded, so that he had two important constituents right at hand. The third, hematite iron ore, was provided by the acquirement of the Wabana mine, and Belle Isle is only four hundred miles from Sydney, with a continuous, unobstructed deep water passage from one point to the other, the ore running into the steamer's hold from the pier at Wabana and being hoisted out at the pier at Sydney, only a few yards from the ruddy mouths of the blast furnaces into which it is to be fed. No other similar industry in any other part of the world can show such a combination of favorable conditions for the actual production of the commodity, in addition to which there is the equally important fact that Sydney is a deep water port, thereby obviating railway transport, and that it is only 2,100 miles from England, whereas New York is 3,100. By comparison with the American smelters in Pennsylvania and further west, and taking into account the railroad freights to the American seaboard, as well as the increased cost of ocean transfer, it is pointed out that the product of the Sydney smelter will be able to undersell that of any American competitor in the iron centres of Europe.

The Wabana mine is not the only deposit of its kind in Newfoundland, and at several other points in Conception Bay, where Belle Isle is, discoveries of the mineral have been made and the properties prospected by the Whitney people and others interested. The result has been to prove that the region has been very largely mineralized, and that many workable veins of hematite exist, the development of which will be undertaken by large English concerns within a year or two. The Spanish ores now so much used in England are beginning to fail, and the

securing of others within reasonable distance of the manufacturing centres has become a necessity. Our hematite region should "fill the bill," as it is only 1,760 miles from the English coast.

But while these projects are more or less embryonic, that at Sydney is an actuality—so much so, indeed, that a duplicate plant is to be erected at North Sydney, a sister town. The first is now almost ready for the never ceasing furnace fires to be lighted. The plant will be the most complete of its kind in the world, for the promoters will have the ex-

perience of two continents to profit by. It will perform every process in the allied arts of iron and steel making, the ultimate forms of the latter—steel rails, structural pieces, and ship plates—being produced. The by-products of the coke will also be saved and converted into marketable commodities. Four blast furnaces, each with a capacity of four hundred tons daily, are installed, as well as five hundred ovens for the manufacture of coke. Steel mill, blooming outfit, rolling mill—everything essential to the supply of the perfected products in this line

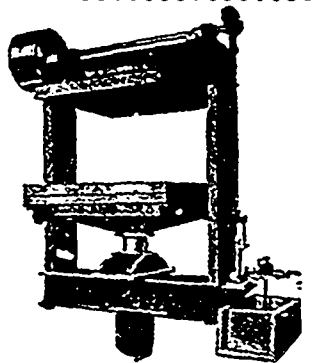
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