

of valuable iron lands taken up. It was visited during the past summer by many eminent geologists, practical miners and experts. The reports have been wholly favorable, and it is admitted that it is the best iron field ever presented in the Lake Superior country, and only awaits capital to make it one of the greatest industries Canada has yet been favored with. There are grounds for hope that this range will not be without railway facilities very long. The Ontario & Rainy River Railway Company have taken it up with earnestness, and are now locating their line. Another company, the Atikokan Iron Range Railway Company, are surveying their line from a point on the Canadian Pacific Railway to the iron, and the great Canadian Pacific Railway Company have made a survey from their main line to the range, and found an easy route. With all the energy now being expended with the sole object of opening up this country, it seems certain of accomplishment in the near future, and trade revived as it surely will be by this development. The mining and shipping of iron ore, important as it is, by no means covers the advantages we have every reason to expect as it would seem beyond doubt that our most natural industries are

BLAST FURNACES AND ROLLING MILLS.

Chicago has proved equal to the task of competing with Pittsburg and other centres, supposed to hold supremacy as iron markets, owing to their proximity to the coal fields, and our position is such that we can lay down by water, coal or coke and limestone as cheaply as at Chicago, and iron ore one dollar and twenty-five cents per ton cheaper. An estimate of cost of producing iron here by an eminent engineer, Mr James P. Withrow of Pittsburg, in accordance with the prices of the different ingredients, is eleven 50-100 dollars per ton. As for a market for iron in Canada, the government returns show that in 1888, 21,799 tons of pig iron were produced in Canada, and 68,333 tons imported, and as none was exported the quantity consumed was about 90,132 tons valued at \$1,153,840. The total importation of iron and steel and manufactures thereof was \$11,776,528, representing a consumption of about 400,000 tons of pig iron. This immense consumption as compared with the output of less than twenty-two thousand tons, leaves a wide margin for iron enterprises. The desire of the Dominion Government to foster this industry is evident. The duty on pig iron is four dollars per ton, and for a period of five years, beginning with 1892, a bonus of two dollars per ton will be paid by it. With such government assistance, and our own natural advantages, the establishment of blast furnaces and rolling mills must soon be a certainty. Port Arthur is to be commended for its liberal offer of a twenty five thousand dollar bonus for