

billets weighing 270 lbs each. The larger part of the products of these works is finally made into steel rails and steel plates, which principally go to Europe. The works are run day and night without cessation, with a staff of 1,600 men, who work in shifts of eight hours each. The toil is hard and trying, but the pay is good.

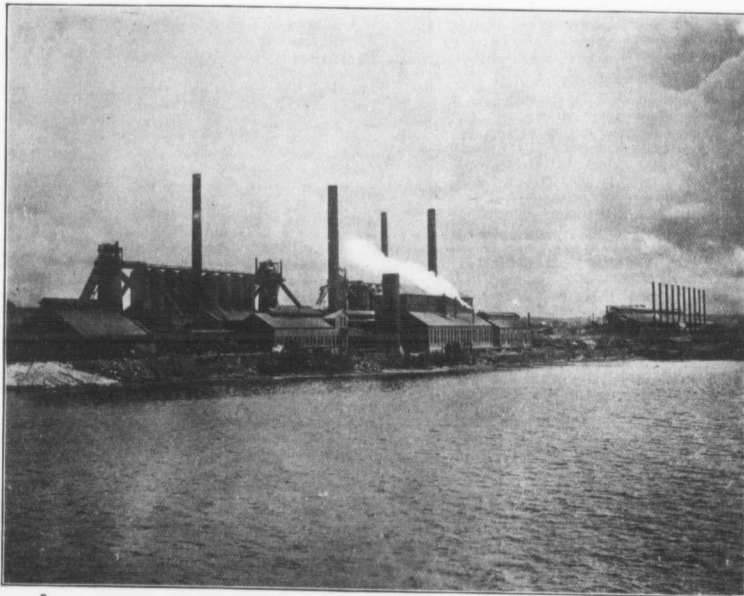
North Sydney is a thriving town across the harbor, with a population of about 5,000. In the vicinity are the coal mines, which cause considerable business to be done in this place. There is one departmental store the equal of which I have not seen outside of Toronto and Montreal. Three miles away, and connected by trolley car, is the town of Sydney Mines, which has sprung up like a mushroom. Seventeen months ago there were but thirty families in this place, and

It was a formidable calendar of offences, many of them of violence. In speaking of the first "His Lordship" remarked, "Whiskey was evidently the cause of this crime."

As he went on with the others, again and again he said: "Gentlemen you see, once more, that whiskey caused the trouble."

Before closing his address to the Grand Jury the Judge declared: "If strong drink could be entirely banished from these mining districts, there would scarcely be any necessity for us to hold Court."

The churches in these localities certainly have a terrible enemy to fight against in these towns. Methodism has been planted in Sydney, North Sydney, Sydney Mines, Glace Bay, and is doing good work. The largest and best church is at



BLAST FURNACES OF THE DOMINION IRON AND STEEL CO., SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON.

and now there are about 2,500 people, over two hundred houses have been erected during the summer, but still it is impossible to meet the demand. This is largely due to the extensive works of the Nova Scotia Steel Company, which are now in course of erection. When completed they will add greatly to the population of the place.

The residences for the miners are dreary affairs. They are put up in long monotonous rows, and one house seems to be as much like another as two peas. A drunken man coming home at night must find it a difficult thing to discover his own domicile. It is pleasing to note in the newer houses quite an improvement over the old. While there is no attempt at architectural beauty and the plan of all is the same, the painful monotony is broken to some extent by painting the houses in different colors.

The life of a miner is not one that has many pleasures connected with it. For a goodly portion of his time he is working in the darkness, away below the surface of the earth, and during his resting hours his surroundings are by no means attractive; partly on this account, perhaps, the saloon is largely patronized. In North Sydney there are 70 saloons, one to every 75 of the population, and consequently there is much drunkenness.

During the past summer I sat in the Court room at Sydney and listened to the Judge go over the list of crimes that had been committed during the two or three months previous.

North Sydney, although "Jubilee Church," in Sydney, is a very fair building. Our denomination needs a better church there, and it will doubtless come within a short time. The cause has grown considerably during recent years, a second church having been erected about a mile and a half from Jubilee, which is attended by families deriving their support from "the works."

Not the least of the attractions of the Sydneys is the magnificent harbor, which is probably not surpassed in the world for size, safety, convenience and beauty. Ferry boats ply between Sydney and North Sydney every hour, and seem to do quite a business. Coal vessels are, of course, constantly coming and going, and frequently the harbor scene is enlivened by the presence of several war vessels.

The scenery around the harbor is very fine. The view across the water from the verandah of the Sydney Hotel is as pretty a sight as can be seen anywhere on this continent. In regard to the future of these towns, there are many "boom" prophecies which will not be fulfilled. It is nonsense to say that there will be a population of 100,000 in Sydney within the next five years, but doubtless there will be a steady and satisfactory growth which is much better than sudden inflation. The conditions for a great industrial centre certainly exist, and nothing but bad management can prevent development and expansion.