

The production of pig iron in the United States increased from 8,000,000 tons in 1896 to over 37,000,000 in 1915, and the total shipments from the mines in the United States in 1915 were estimated to have exceeded 55,000,000 tons, an increase over the previous year of 38 per cent. In 1915 Great Britain imported from the States 20,000 tons of steel billets valued at \$11,000,000. According to the monthly report issued on January 10th, the unfilled orders of the United States Steel Corporation on December 31st amounted to 9,381,718 tons, an increase of 484,612 tons compared with the orders on November 30th, and, according to Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board, the production of ship tonnage in the United States in 1918 is estimated at from 4,500,000 to 5,000,000.

There are now 118 shipyards in the States, 51 of which are turning out steel ships, and the forces of shipyard workers had increased from 105,000 in October to 150,000 in December. From these figures it is evident the demand for pig iron and finished steel will increase, and the only possible chance for steel shipbuilding to become a permanent industry in British Columbia is the establishing of a steel industry in the Province. The Provincial Government should put a reserve on all deposits not Crown granted and if deemed necessary even purchase from the present owners. Suitable deposits could then be leased to anyone who will establish the industry, on a reasonable royalty basis, and the Province would thereby reap the benefit which would otherwise go to the speculative owner.