

severe alternations and extremes both of heat and cold than Ontario, and they are exposed to fierce storms of wind sweeping across vast areas of prairie, with a biting and freezing force, such as is almost entirely unknown in Canada. Our climate, in England, is strangely misunderstood. For fully nine months of the year, the temperature is on an equality with that of England, the only difference being that our climate is drier. For one half of the remaining three we have much better weather than England experiences, and can consequently grow open air grapes, tomatoes, and much else that she cannot. We grow at the same time everything she does. In summer our families are off to the sea, or the lakes for coolness. In winter we have a much greater range of cold for a short period, but as all know who have lived here, the superior dryness of the air makes the cold weather so healthy, bright, and exhilarating that the temperature brings no discomfort. This is a plain statement of the case. No Englishman need have the shadow of an apprehension of coming to Canada on the score of climate.

And, as Mr. Smith well states, there is such a future before us that the general tone is one of hope and enterprise. For those who will work and be economical, the country offers everything that man can want. All classes here live well. Food is plentiful; that strikes all strangers. Education is within the reach of everybody, and even a superior education can be had by almost any man's son who will save for it, as many are continually doing. In fact we have all the advantages of the States and something more.

AN OPENING FOR ENTERPRISE.

It appears to us there is an opening at the present time for capital and enterprise in the development of the minerals of the Dominion, and more particularly in our iron deposits. We are aware that some years ago the manufacture of iron was tried in the mines near the City of Ottawa and did not succeed; but the price of that metal has gone up largely since, and whilst there may not have been sufficient margin then, from the competition of British iron makers, it is quite possible good profits may be attainable under the present circumstances.

The time is auspicious for making an earnest effort to develop this branch of Canadian industry. The price of iron is high, the demand for it increases not only among ourselves, but throughout every part of the habitable globe, and there is no question as to the fact that throughout Ontario we have rich deposits of iron ore, which ought

to pay well for developing. In these conditions, we think, there are the elements of certain success when the business is carried on with sufficient capital, enterprise and skill.

The immense consumption of iron throughout the Dominion may be known from the fact that we have imported to the value of \$56,000,000 in round numbers during the last five years. Of this large amount no less than \$21,000,000 worth was imported during 1873. Beneath, we append a statement of our importations for the last five years, beginning with 1869 and ending with 1873, and giving the amounts which came in free, at 5 per cent, and 15 per cent duty respectively:—

Free.	5 per cent.	15 per cent.
\$2,223,889	\$1,817,800	\$2,132,021
2,487,496	1,793,876	2,366,265
3,404,796	2,449,369	3,110,161
6,163,969	3,247,172	3,840,859
11,510,443	4,842,148	4,642,299
\$25,790,593	\$14,150,365	\$16,091,605

The great increase in the value of iron imported during last year was not due so much to the larger quantity imported, although there was a considerable advance therein, as to the large augmentation which has taken place in prices in Great Britain. So large has this increase been, that considerable quantities of American iron have recently been brought into Canada, notwithstanding the heavy cost of production in that country arising from their extreme protective system. Under these circumstances, the present would seem to be a good opportunity for our capitalists to enter energetically into the development of our iron mines.

One of the chief difficulties in the way of iron manufacture in this Province, is to get men with sufficient capital and experience, and willing to risk their investment in the extensive works necessary to ensure success. We are pleased to learn that for some time past efforts have been made to enlist British capitalists in the development of the Hull mines near Ottawa, and it is confidently expected that the ultimate result will be the production of pig, bar, railroad and other kinds of iron in that locality. It is to be hoped that the assistance of British enterprise may be obtained; but if not, surely there is enough of enterprise, and money too, among the leading business men of Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto, to form companies abundantly able to enter upon this important branch of Canadian industry with the ability and spirit necessary to success.

In order to encourage the manufacture of iron, we understand the Dominion Parliament is to be asked to increase the

duties as follows: to put up the 5 per cent list to 7½ or 10 per cent, and to put 5 per cent on all kinds which may be manufactured among ourselves. One of the difficulties in the way of this is, that what is the finished article of the iron maker, is the raw material of a score of other trades, those engaged in which will not regard favorably an increase, however small, in the present high price of that metal. The duty asked, is not large, and would probably not be seriously felt.

We observe that an Ottawa journal states that during last year, the Hull mines sent 14,000 tons, and the Marmora mines 28,000 tons of ore to the United States. This paid 20 per cent duty into the American treasury, and it is claimed as a fact, that after being manufactured into iron at their smelting works, it came back into Canada and was sold to our dealers. It is quite evident if these circumstances be true, that those who embark in iron manufacture among us will have a very large protection in the present position of affairs. If Americans could take Canadian ore, pay 20 per cent duty upon it, smelt it, and return to Canada at a profit, it is quite apparent there would be a splendid profit to Canadian iron makers in merely saving the duties and the cost of carriage. Fuel may be cheaper across the lines than in Ontario, but we have the advantage in cheaper labor and lower cost of living. Under these circumstances we are of opinion that the principal things required to ensure the successful manufacture of iron among us, is sufficient capital, with the necessary skill and experience. These requirements ought not to be difficult to obtain.

Now that capital is becoming more abundant, we trust this opening for Canadian enterprise will not much longer go begging. It would be something for the Dominion to have kept at home ten millions of the twenty-one sent abroad for iron last year, not to speak of the increased field for skilled and unskilled labor opened up. Whilst this would have been an advantage to the country at large, those engaged in developing our mines and manufacturing the ore into iron, would doubtless also have reaped fair profits upon their investments. Let us hope that before long we may see Canadian iron successfully competing side by side with the imported article in every part of the country.

WESTERN CANADA BUILDING SOCIETY.

A further increase of the capital by the sum of \$100,000 was found necessary during the year, owing to the restriction im-