

Canada Iron Production Low

Average monthly output is now much below any recent period except last half of 1919—Complete figures of Iron and Steel industry for 1918-19

The total production of pig-iron in Canada during the first half of 1920 according to statistics collected by the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines, Ottawa, was 502,667 short tons (499,891 tons made in blast furnaces and 2,796 tons made in electric furnaces) as compared with a production of 524,977 tons during the first half of 1919, and 392,804 tons during the second half of 1919. The average monthly production of pig-iron during the first half of 1920 was 83,778 tons as compared with an average monthly production throughout 1919 of 76,482 tons.

The blast furnace plants active during the first half of the year were those of the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., at North Sydney, N.S.; the Algoma Steel Corporation at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; the Canadian Furnace Co., Port Colborne, Ont., and the Steel Company of Canada, Ltd., at Hamilton, Ontario.

The blast furnace plants at Midland, Parry Sound and Deseronto, Ont., were idle throughout the period.

Pig-iron was made from scrap iron and steel in two plants, the Shawinigan Foundries Ltd., Shawinigan Falls, Que., and the Hull Iron and Steel Foundries, Ltd., Hull, Quebec.

For production of iron and steel in Canada the following are the revised statistics and comparison with 1918. (Division of Mineral Resources and Statistics, Department of Mines, Ottawa):—

Iron ore — Shipments:

	Short tons	Short tons
	1918	1919
Hematite	485	125
Magnetite	39,396	7,083
Roasted siderite	170,827	189,962
Bog ore	900
Total shipments	211,608	197,170

Sold for export	118,472	5,883
Imports, (Customs record)	2,200,838	1,783,098
Charged to blast furnaces, Canadian ore	96,745	78,391
Charged to blast furnaces, Imported ore	2,146,995	1,674,194
Charged to steel furnaces	48,599	32,409
Shipment from Wabana, Newfoundland	848,574	499,972
Pig Iron: (Blast furnace): Nova Scotia	415,870	285,087
Ontario	684,642	747,650
Pig Iron — Electric furnace	32,031	7,701
Pig Iron production by grades:		

Basic	966,409	580,426
Bessemer	47,446	15,338
Foundry and malleable	178,099	322,017

Total production 1,195,551 917,781

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
January	89,187	74,239	103,963	81,494	81,494
February	83,801	78,507	86,840	70,864	70,864
March	103,789	96,848	91,286	77,155	77,155
April	100,564	104,331	93,359	86,303	86,303
May	108,891	104,867	83,059	97,593	97,593
June	99,998	103,037	66,470	89,258	89,258
July	92,012	93,499	109,723	60,927	60,927
August	87,864	100,727	96,164	67,404	67,404
September	102,744	100,690	95,102	56,806	56,806
October	113,608	103,277	106,962	56,049	56,049
November	104,436	97,905	106,585	73,092	73,092
December	106,496	87,152	119,186	78,526	78,526
Average monthly	1,169,257	1,170,480	1,195,551	917,781	917,781
	97,438	97,540	99,629	76,482	83,778

Exports of pig-iron	2,130	63,605
Exports of ferro-alloys	23,781	22,449
Imports of pig-iron	67,396	35,800
Imports of ferro-alloys	35,284	16,222

Steel:

Production of ingots and castings	1,873,708	1,030,342
Production of ingots by classes:		

Open hearth	1,684,317	983,236
Electric steel	115,615	8,741
Other steels	2,299	1,062

Direct wastings by classes:

Open hearth	62,017	24,259
Electric	3,515	6,761
Other castings	8,005	6,283

Imports of steel ingots, blooms and blooms from U. S. (U.S. Customs record)	277,012	11,452
Production of steel rails	162,747	316,304
Production of wire rods	154,789	153,723

Imports of wire rods	42,838	34,903
Imports of tin plate	72,844	43,407

Value of total Exports of Iron and Steel goods \$61,772,613 \$84,058,924

Value of Total Imports of Iron and Steel goods \$178,340,779 \$181,332,310

The monthly production of pig-iron in short tons since 1916 has been as follows: (1920 figures subject to revision):—

Unoccupied Land in the West

Among the natural resources of Canada agricultural land is by far the most important, the value of field crops alone being four times as great in 1919 as that of all other raw products of mines, fisheries and forests combined.

Canada has a land area of 2,306,502,400 acres, but obviously much of this is not adapted for cultivation. Without taking into consideration forest or swamp land, much of which will ultimately be tilled, nor of unexplored northern areas, there remain at least 300,000,000 acres available for agricultural development.

Only about one sixth of these 300 million acres are under cultivation, and 250 millions are still unimproved. It is estimated that there are in Canada about 180 million acres of agricultural land in private ownership with a rural population of 4½ millions; in other words, not taking into account mining, lumbering, fishing, domestic duties and other activities, each Canadian man, woman and child living outside of a town may on the average be assumed to be farming 40 acres. In Northern Europe the rural population on the same basis, but with far less widespread occupation is attending to 4½ acres per head.

The utilize the agricultural land and thus widen the basic factor of Canada's production is, then, all important, for it is on this that the development of the other natural resources depend. The day of the free homestead within easy reach of a railway is rapidly becoming a thing of the past, and means other than free grants must be looked to for rural development.

For the man who intends to farm there is, as stated above, a vast area in private ownership, a large proportion of which is of necessity unoccupied and available for sale at reasonable prices. The prospective purchaser who relies upon his own resources of information may, however, find it more or less difficult to obtain a knowledge of lands for sale suitable to his means and requirements. This difficulty is now to a large extent overcome by the publication by the Department of the Interior of lists of unoccupied lands for sale in the Prairie and Maritime Provinces.

These lists, as a rule, give a short description of the land, its location, the price at which it is held for sale and the name and address of the owner. The great value of such information is that it places the intending purchaser directly in

touch with those who, for one reason or another, have been unable to cultivate their holdings and who, therefore, are often willing to sell at inviting prices.

Lists covering the Provinces of Manitoba and the south eastern portion of Saskatchewan are now ready, while lists covering the balance of the Prairie Provinces are now being compiled and will be available for distribution before very long.

As there is a series of twenty-three lists covering the Western provinces alone, applicants must specify the particular locality in which they are interested. These lists may be obtained free of charge on application to the Superintendent, Natural Resources Intelligence Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.

Winnipeg, Man.—The Aeronautical Federation of Canada has been formed, as the result of a convention held here of representatives of the aero clubs throughout the Dominion. All flying organizations in Canada will be incorporated in the federation.

Winnipeg, Man.—Copper and nickel reported running in lodes of from 100 to 140 feet, have been discovered in the Lac du Bonnet mining district. The Federal government has sent a survey party to make a report on the whole field.