

steel works in the State of Illinois produce more than one fourth of all the iron and steel made in the United States; and the works of one company alone—the Illinois Steel Company—have capacity to make one third of all the steel rails that can be made in that country.

It is a remarkable fact that nowhere in the State of Illinois does there exist any of the raw materials required for the manufacture of iron and steel. All the ores necessary are brought a distance of 350 miles from the Lake Superior region; and all the fuel for smelting is brought a distance of nearly 600 miles from the Connellsville ovens in Pennsylvania.

#### CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH.

In a recent issue of this journal we stated that there were a number of manufacturing establishments in Canada whose regular supplies of pig iron were drawn from the United States; American iron being given the preference over British iron because it was cheaper. This indisputable fact has fallen like a bombshell in the camp of the Free Traders, who, in true Chinese style, seek to avoid the effects of it by making noisy, meaningless sounds. The *Montreal Herald*, in attempting to evade the force of our fact, professes to have knowledge of "some manufacturing establishments that have to import Scotch and Swedish pig, regardless of price, to make the higher grades of steel, because the pig iron made here is not suitable for that purpose." It argues that "according to protectionist logic, the duty on pig iron should be increased so as to shut out these imports, and compel the steel manufacturers either to use the home product and turn out inferior steel, or do the next best thing."

The antipathy of the *Herald* to Protection leads it to say many silly things, which, if it expects its readers to believe, it cannot have any exalted opinion of their common sense, and this is one such occasion. If it knows of any manufacturing establishment in Canada engaged in the production of "the higher grades of steel," wherein the use of Scotch or Swedish pig iron is absolutely essential, it would contribute a valuable page to current Canadian history by giving the name of the manufacturers and the location of the works. If, on the other hand, the *Herald* knows of no such establishments, it stands convicted out of its own mouth as not being wedded to the truth.

These anti-Protection papers all do it. They are in a chronic state of suffering from a spirit of exaggeration, always finding it exceedingly difficult in offering arguments in defence of their indefensible theories to confine themselves to actualities, or to be unfettered by the restraining influences of cold facts.

#### AMERICAN IRON ORE.

ALL the developed evidence points to the fact that there are no considerable influences in the United States that desire to have iron ore placed on the free list. That country now stands in the enviable position of being able to supply about all the ores it needs from its own inexhaustible mines, and to manufacture from them all the iron and steel products it requires. Until recently, it was thought that only limited supplies of steel making ores could be found in the United States, but it is now known that the Lake Superior region is capable of supplying all the high grade ores required in all the furnaces west of the Alleghenies and north of the Ohio river; while Western

North Carolina, Western Virginia, East Tennessee and North Alabama will supply all Southern works with ores of similar value. These Southern ores are found in quantities sufficient to honor all demands that are likely to be made upon them for generations to come; and it is only such works as are situated along the Atlantic coast that will draw upon foreign countries for their supplies. This latter demand is not for very large quantities of ore, and the proprietors of these Atlantic works carry little or no influence in demanding free ores, while all the influence attaching to the home industry, scattered as it is throughout the country, is decidedly against such a proposition. The consumption of iron ore in the United States during the year 1889 amounted to about 15,000,000 tons, of which the Lake Superior region alone supplied 7,000,000 tons; and one-half of all the pig iron made there in that year was from Lake Superior ores. The importation of foreign iron ore into the United States amounts to less than a million tons a year, but a very small portion of which was taken from Canadian mines, the supply coming chiefly from Spain and Cuba. The product of the Spanish mines last year was only about 7,000,000 tons—just about equal to the product of the Lake Superior mines—but nearly all these Spanish ores are required for the demands of England, France, Belgium and Germany; and all these countries depend largely upon foreign importations for their steel works. The Cuba mines are owned or controlled by the Pennsylvania Steel Company, who have erected extensive steel works near Philadelphia, depending upon their Cuba mines for their ore supplies.

The history of the iron ore industry in the United States is briefly told. It began about forty years ago, and it struggled along through the earlier years of its existence under a so-called "protection" of an advalorem duty of twenty per cent. Iron ore was not mentioned in the Morrill Tariff, but was classed under the section which read "all mineral or bituminous substances not otherwise provided for," the duty being about equivalent to 45 to 55 cents a ton. It was in view of the large and rapid increase in importations of ore, subsequent to 1880, that the present specific duty of 75 cents a ton was imposed. Under the 20 per cent. duty the industry languished, and the United States was forced to depend, in large measure, upon foreign mines for its supplies of steel ores; but as soon as the specific duty of 75 cents a ton was imposed, new mines were opened, railroads for transporting the ores were pushed through the wildernesses to them, immense fleets of vessels found profitable employment in sharing the transportation with the railroads and every trade and business connected with this industry assumed a most lively and lucrative character. Hon. Geo. H. Ely, president of the Western Iron Ore Association, estimates that the capital now invested in the United States in connection with ore mining, transportation and manufacture into iron amounts to not less than \$150,000,000, and furnishing employment to hundreds of thousands of laborers, who receive three times as much wages as are paid for ore mining in Spain and Cuba.

Mr. Ely, speaking of what would be the result if the American duty on iron ore was removed, says:—

The displacement of American ore by foreign, which would certainly follow the removal of the duty, would have the effect of reducing wages all along the line of this vast combination