

The *Hamilton Herald* says that last year Canada imported from the United States steel rails to the value of about \$2,000,000. The year before our total imports of steel rails from the States amounted to about \$1,200,000. The value of our imports of "railroad iron and steel of all sorts" from Great Britain last year was \$67,834, as against \$124,115 the year before. In the the matter of steel rails. It is clear, the Canadian preferential tariff does not do Great Britain any good.

But the proper policy for Canada is a policy that will give the Canadian market neither to British nor American manufacturers. There is going to be an enormous quantity of steel rails used in Canada this year, next year, and in the years following. The demand will steadily increase. As the northwest fills up new railways will be needed, and all over Canada electric lines are being projected. The Canadian market for steel rails is now an important one, and is sure to grow in importance. Why should not the steel rails used in Canada be made in Canada? There is not in the world better iron ore for the manufacture of steel than we have in Ontario, and there is an unlimited supply of it. All that is needed is for the steel industry to get a fair start: and the legislative encouragement necessary to give it a fair start is the best policy for Canada.

What about the vast deposits of iron ore of Kamloops and district?

There is nobility about the occupation of a miner which attaches to few if any other callings. In other businesses a dollar made is a dollar won or snatched from the pocket of

a fellow competitor in the same line of business; but a dollar made by the miner makes the whole world that much richer, as it is taken from no man's pocket, but it comes in its native state from mother earth. It is a dollar which has no associations of crime, want, or misery to be ashamed of, and, unlike other productions, is not consumed or destroyed, but is a permanent contribution to the wealth of the community. —

The Provincial Government has at last consented to make an appropriation for a mineral exhibit from British Columbia at the Paris exposition of 1900. When originally approached on the subject the government seemed to think that there was nothing to be gained by having the mineral wealth of the province represented at Paris, but wiser counsel happily prevailed and with the desired effect. The boards of trade of Rossland, Nelson and Vancouver, assisted by other influential public bodies brought their power to bear, and it is now an assured fact that British Columbia will have a fitting place at the exposition. — *Nelson Miner*.

The North Thompson River District.

By John F. Smith

I enumerated in your last issue the different class of minerals, both precious and base, which have been found to exist in the mountain ranges on both sides of the valley of the North Thompson river, among which I outlined briefly the surface limit of the coal beds as far as investigations have gone, and the extent of prospecting directed in their development, the results obtained from such efforts, which have been of a highly satisfactory nature,