

labor being done by American miners, train-hands and seamen. The furnaces are on American soil, erected with American capital and employing American workmen. So, too, regarding the steel works, manufacturing the steel, and the rolling mills and machine shops engaged in reducing it to proper shapes; and this one order alone will require in railroad service the equivalent of 600 freight carloads traveling a distance of about a thousand miles.

If the vessels to be constructed with this 5,000 tons of steel had been ordered to be built in Canadian ship-yards, according to the prayer of the Marine Section of the Toronto Board of Trade, all the investment of capital in mining, smelting, conversion, rolling, shaping, transportation, etc., would be in some other country than Canada: and all the benefit Canada would receive from it would be the assembling and fastening together the parts of vessels that had been to all intents constructed on the otherside of the ocean. The so-called Canadian ship builders would be recompensed for superintending this almost inconsequential part of the work; and probably a few score imported workmen would find temporary employment; but only a strained interpretation of the term could be made to denominate the transaction an exhibition of Canadian ship building enterprise.

It is indeed anomalous that our tariff imposes a duty upon much of the materials now imported entering into the construction and equipment of steel vessels in Canada, while vessels wholly constructed in Great Britain are admitted into full and equal competition with Canadian built vessels without Canadian registration and without payment of Canadian customs dues. This is all wrong, and the wrong should be righted, but the way to right it is not in the way proposed by the Marine Section of the Toronto Board of Trade. Canadian coastwise trade should be restricted to Canadian built tonnage. The other scheme is a delusion and a snare.

CANADIAN IRON MINES.

THE owners of Canadian iron mines and their newspaper friends who are so anxious for Reciprocity with the United States so that Canadian ores can be admitted duty free to that country, owe to Canadian miners an explanation regarding what they have said concerning the cost of mining. Mr. T. D. Ledyard, who is largely interested in an iron mine near Peterborough, Ont., states that the ores from that mine can be taken out at a cost not exceeding one dollar per ton.—The *Toronto Globe*, Mr. Ledyard's mouthpiece, says that mining these ores at one dollar per ton is, to able-bodied miners, "high wages." Mr. Ledyard says that these ores are the equal of any from Lake Superior mines, and that they can be laid down in Cleveland, Ohio, duty paid, at \$3.90 per ton. The *Cleveland Iron Trade Review* recently stated the market value at that city of certain Lake Superior ores, to be \$7 per ton. Hon. George H. Ely, of Cleveland, President of the Western Iron Ore Association, in a letter to Major McKinley, Chairman of Committee on Ways and Means of the United States House of Representatives, speaking of the cost of mining the Lake Superior ores states that the average daily wages per man paid to miners during the past eight years was \$2.10;

that the average total cost per ton of ore mined in that time was \$2.32 and that the labor cost per ton was \$1.60, the explanation being made that the difference between the "labor cost" and the "total cost" per ton was the expense for tools, explosives, timber, etc.; the figures not including cost of general administration of the business, but only the cost of production at the mines; the mining operations being carried on all the year round.

The process of mining is substantially the same at Mr. Ely's Lake Superior mines and at Mr. Ledyard's Peterborough mines; and what we desire to call special attention to is the difference in cost of mining—pay of miners, etc., as reported by these two gentlemen. Mr. Ledyard says he can mine his Canadian ores at a cost of one dollar per ton, while Mr. Ely says it cost him \$2.32 a ton to mine his American ores—that he pays his miners \$1.60 a ton for mining, the cost of tools, explosives, timber, etc., averaging seventy-two cents per ton. Certainly Mr. Ledyard cannot supply tools, explosives, timber, etc., for his Canadian mine any cheaper than Mr. Ely can for his American mine; and it is fair to suppose that this being the fact, and that seventy-two cents per ton must be counted in the cost of mining, it is evident that Mr. Ledyard, to mine his ore at a cost of one dollar per ton, as he says he can do, cannot possibly pay his miners more than twenty eight cents per ton for mining. And this is what the *Toronto Globe* calls "high wages to able-bodied Ontario miners!"

Mr. Ely a couple of years ago—in April, 1888—in an article in the *North American Review* stated certain facts regarding the cost of mining iron ore; and in his letter to Major McKinley, he asserts that the figures hereinbefore quoted entirely confirmed the statements he had previously made. These were to the effect that the wages of miners in Lake Superior mines are more than three and three-quarter times what they are at Bilbao, and more than double those paid in the Cleveland District, England; and that the labor cost of a ton of iron ore in the Lake Superior region would be at least eight or nine times that at Bilbao. The Pennsylvania Steel Company, who, like Mr. Ledyard, are clamoring for "free ore," say that the cost of mining their Cuban ores and delivering it on board ship in that Island is only one dollar per ton. No doubt the cost of tools, explosives, timber, etc., in these Cuban mines is quite as much as in the United States and Canada—seventy-two cents per ton; and it is evident that the cost of general administration of the business there, as in Canada also, must be duly considered; and in considering the matter the question arises: What pay do the miners get? The measure of that pay to slave labor in Cuban iron mines with ore mined at a cost of one dollar per ton, is certainly the measure of the wages Mr. Ledyard expects to pay to able-bodied Ontario miners working in his Peterborough mines, from which he says he can deliver ore at a cost of only one dollar per ton. And this pay is what the *Toronto Globe* calls "high wages!"

Mr. Ledyard is an intelligent gentleman who probably knows or thinks he knows what he talks about; but able-bodied Ontario miners will hesitate in taking employment in his mines at the rate of wages paid to slave labor in Cuba. He must not be too avaricious. He must offer as much as Mr. Ely, whose miners average \$2.10 a day wages the year round.