

Last year our imports of blankets were valued at \$54,000, and yet Canadian blankets are as good as any made anywhere else; we imported of cloths over \$1,500,000, of coatings \$655,000, of towels \$971,000, flannels \$175,000, hosiery over \$300,000, socks and stockings over \$362,000, worsted goods \$2,334,000, woolen underclothing \$600,000, carpets \$1,270,000, and yet we make about all these things, and of the best quality. Why not let Canada have the benefit arising from the production of such goods? Does it look, in the face of these figures, that we are upon the verge of over-production?

We are kindly informed that by protection we may put our manufacturers in a position to compete with foreigners in our home market, but the moment they pass out of the country they will be at a fatal disadvantage. As we have shown, there is no imminent danger of our home production overtaking the demand, and therefore the *Herald*, like the little girl alluded to, need not become dissolved in tears at the prospect of something dreadful happening in the sweet by-and-bye. Of course, the N.P. was created for the special purpose of enabling our manufacturers to compete with foreigners in our home market, and unless we have this protection it would be simply impossible to manufacture at home and to give large employment to our artisans and workmen. All the goods we require would be made abroad and the manufacture of them give employment to strangers. Before we worry ourselves about foreign trade in our manufactures let us first fully occupy our home market. Let us make all such articles as we can manufacture to advantage at home, purchasing abroad only such things as we cannot produce here. This will give the maximum of employment to both capital and labor, and afford the largest and most profitable demand for our agricultural and farm products. When we have done this it will then be time to consider the question of exporting our surplus manufactures, but not till then. The nation that manufactures for itself prospers. If our manufacturing industries are prosperous our agricultural industries will be correspondingly prosperous. If the farmer's produce is consumed at home he will receive better remuneration therefor than if he had to seek a foreign market. The desirability for a foreign market is that we may sell our surplus products therein. Our surplus products. The home market is the best under all circumstances, for that we can control, and when it is to our interest to do so we can exclude from it the products of other nations.

OUR PIG IRON PRODUCTION.

In another page will be found an article entitled "Canadian Charcoal Iron," having reference to the iron manufactured at Three Rivers, Que., to which we invite attention. The facts therein set forth confirm the contention this journal has always advanced that quite as good iron can be made in Canada as anywhere else in the world; and this matter is very timely and of great importance in view of the fact that a strong interest is now being manifested, particularly in Ontario, looking to the establishment of extensive works in Toronto for the manufacture of iron and steel from native ores.

Iron, as we all know, is the chief constituent entering into the manufacture of hundreds of articles of every-day necessity,

including the steam engine, the threshing machine, the plow and the sewing machine needle; and it is no credit to the policy of the country to know that with our inexhaustible stores of ores, fuels, and fluxes, and plenty of capital and skill available to build and operate blast furnaces and iron works, all we have to show in this direction are the furnaces of the Canada Iron Furnace Company, alluded to in the article to which we call attention, and of the Londonderry Iron Company at Londonderry, N.S., which are now in active operation, and of the New Glasgow Iron, Coal and Railway Company, who are building a stack at Ferrona, N.S., and of the Pictou Charcoal Iron Company, who are building a stack at Bridgeville, N.S. It is true we have many establishments for manufacturing steel and iron, but these have to depend entirely upon foreign iron and steel for their raw material, except what is made in the Canadian furnaces here mentioned. A large proportion of the pig made at Londonderry is consumed in industries in which that concern are interested, and when the Ferrona furnace goes into operation the product will probably be all absorbed by the Nova Scotia Steel and Forge Company, at New Glasgow, leaving for the supply of the general demand of the country whatever may be produced at the other works.

And still Canada imported over 81,000 tons of pig iron last year. The Ontario Iron and Steel Company are desirous of erecting furnaces in Toronto which will have capacity to produce probably one hundred and fifty tons of pig per day, but the erection of these works seems to be contingent upon whether the Ontario Government will duplicate the bonus of \$2 per ton offered by the Dominion Government.

The value of such works not only to Ontario but to all Canada is unquestioned, but the fact that the establishment of them is contingent upon something besides the inducements held out by the Dominion Government shows conclusively that the duty of \$4 per ton and the bonus of \$2 is not sufficient to build up a flourishing industry. The bonus is not a sufficient inducement to invest in the industry, even with the backing of a revenue tariff of \$4. It does not perceptibly affect the importation of large quantities of iron, whereas if the duty were increased to six or seven dollars, and a feeling of security prevailed that it would not be lowered for some years to come, we would soon have blast furnaces enough to make all the iron we require.

Further, we import too much wrought scrap and bar iron. We should make more bar than we do, and it should be of a much better quality than what can possibly be manufactured from scrap. We import a great deal of puddled bar simply because it cannot be made in Canada; and the reason why it cannot be made here is because we do not produce the pig from which puddled bar is made; and we do not produce the pig because the industry is not sufficiently protected by the tariff. Wrought scrap is a form of iron more advanced than pig or cast, having had more labor bestowed upon it, but the duty upon it is only \$2 per ton, whereas the duty upon pig and cast scrap is \$4 per ton. The duty upon wrought scrap should be not less than that upon pig iron, and really it should be \$6 per ton. If this were the case the consumption of pig iron, if we had it, would be largely increased, because the puddled bar which we now import in such large quantities would be supplanted by a home-made article.