

EXCISE.		
Spirits.....	£12,879,153	Railways.....£ 311,506
Beer.....	8,770,295	Coffee and Chicory..... 3,734
Licenses.....	3,505,625	Other Receipts..... 4,090
Total.....	£25,474,403	

STAMPS.		
Deeds, etc.....	£ 3,153,084	Marine Insurances.....£ 129,203
Probate.....	2,821,039	Bills of Exchange, etc.. 823,480
Legacies, etc.....	3,736,847	Receipts and Drafts..... 1,041,247
Life Insurances.....	45,228	Miscellaneous..... 490,826
Total.....	£12,240,954	

The item "Probate" is exclusive of £1,410,520 which was credited to "Local Taxation Account."

These are interesting figures for Canadian tax-payers to study. The policy of Protection is to admit, free of duty, such articles of prime necessity as cannot, or probably will never be produced in the country, the exception being against articles of luxury that only the rich can afford to use. But, in Free Trade Britain, out of the nearly one hundred million dollars collected from Customs duties, over seventy-one millions are collected from duties on tea, coffee, tobacco and dried fruit—articles that the poor man must have; while the fancy wines that only the nobility, aristocrats and nabobs can drink, paid a duty of only six millions. In Britain, every man who buys a railroad ticket pays an excise tax to the Government; and over sixty millions of dollars was paid in Stamp duties, which means that every paper having any commercial value whatever was heavily taxed. These things are not so in Canada, nor can they ever be as long as our National Policy prevails. The average per capita tax in England for supporting the much vaunted Free Trade policy amounts to \$11.65, while the per capita tax in Canada, under Protection, amounts to only \$7.24.

THE IRON ORE SUPPLY.

The largest quantity of iron ore imported into the United States from any one country in 1889 was 225,525 tons, from the island of Cuba, the next largest quantity being from Spain; Canada furnishing 26,030 tons, of which 15,996 tons went from British Columbia. The importations from Spain fell off from 522,719 tons in 1887 to 190,460 tons in 1889; while those from Cuba increased from 28,209 tons in 1885 to 225,525, as above stated. In 1887 England supplied 72,546 tons, but in 1889 the quantity was reduced to 29,216 tons; while from the French Possessions in Africa the quantity decreased from 215,760 tons in 1887 to 78,137 tons in 1889. Last year Germany sent no iron ore to the United States, and several other countries that in past years shipped ore to that country have ceased entirely to do so, among these being Belgium, Scotland, Ireland, British Possessions in Africa, the Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde Islands, Russia, Turkey in Africa, United States of Colombia and Venezuela. In England, Belgium, Germany and France—countries of Europe that are celebrated for their productions of iron and steel—the native resources are insufficient to supply their demands for iron ore, and these are also large importers of the article. In 1877 the importation of iron into British ports amounted to about 1,150 tons, while in 1888 it was 3,500,000 tons, and in 1889 4,500,000 tons; while the home production averages from 14,000,000 to 15,000,000 tons a year. While the consumption of iron ore in the United States is increasing with wonderful rapidity, the production increases even more rap-

idly; and the time is not very far distant when that country will be virtually independent of the rest of the world for its supplies of iron ore. The consumption of iron ore in the United States was 11,300,000 tons in 1886; 12,500,000 tons in 1887; 12,650,000 tons in 1888, and about 15,000,000 in 1889. Included in this was 1,039,433 tons of imported foreign ore in 1886; 1,194,301 tons in 1887; 587,470 tons in 1888, and probably even less than the last named quantity in 1889. Hon. George H. Ely, of Cleveland Ohio, President of the Western Iron Ore Association, recently stated before the House Committee on Ways and Means, that the production of iron ore from the Gogebic district in Michigan had increased from 1,000 tons in 1884 to 1,800,000 tons during the first ten months of 1889; of the Minnesota district, from 62,000 tons to 800,000 tons during the same period; and that while in 1886 the total production of all American mines was 10,000,000 tons, the estimated production for 1889 was between 14,000,000 and 15,000,000 tons; "and," said the gentleman, "the duty of seventy-five cents a ton on iron ore has promoted the iron and steel interests of the United States in a remarkable degree."

On the other hand, according to the *Colliery Guardian*, the production of British ores, suitable for being treated by the basic process, is diminishing, the annual requirements of foreign ores suitable for the manufacture of Bessemer pig averaging about 4,000,000 tons. Discussing the sources of British and other European supply, the *Guardian* says:

In 1888, Italy sent 57,000 tons of ore; in 1880, it sent 176,000 tons, the highest figure ever reached. Great Britain provides itself with ore almost exclusively from Spain, from the celebrated district of Bilbao. Out of the 3,500,000 tons of ore imported in 1888, 3,200,000 tons were from this district. England draws also from Algeria a little more than 100,000 tons, from Greece 75,000 tons, and from Sweden 60,000 tons. England is not the only country obliged to import large quantities of ore. It follows from statistics that France imported in 1888 about 1,300,000 tons, of which more than 800,000 tons were from Germany and nearly 400,000 from Spain. Scarcely one third of this, however, represents ore for Bessemer pig, while in France the production of steel by the basic process has very largely developed. Germany, for the same reason, has also diminished its importation of special iron ores. It provides for its wants principally in Luxembourg, where ores abound suitable for the basic process, at the remarkably low price of 2.50 francs per ton at the pit's mouth. The importation for 1887 amounted to more than 1,000,000 tons. Belgium imported the same year 1,500,000 tons, for the most part from Luxembourg. For the provision of future wants, the attention of England is directed to the metalliferous ores of the south of Spain and the north of Sweden.

It is evident that the iron and steel making countries of Europe are finding more or less difficulty in obtaining their supplies of suitable ore; and Canada need be in no great hurry to go into the exporting of the immense quantities of such ores as are embedded here. The capacity of the United States for the consumption of iron is greater than that of any other country on earth, and the production of iron there advances so rapidly that in a few years it will also be the greatest iron-producing country; and, under similar and sufficient economic conditions, Canada would largely partake of that situation, the natural advantages of raw materials being already present.