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PIG IRON PRODUCTION DECLINES IN CANADA

Imports Increase While Canadian
Blast Furnaces Are Idle—A
Remedy is Needed

Canadian iron ore resources have not been developed sufficiently to supply home demands—in fact, since 1893 Canadian blast furnaces and steel plants have become more and more dependent upon supplies of imported ores. The total shipments of iron ores in 1912 from mines in Canada were 215,883 tons, whereas blast furnaces consumed a total of 2,690,753 tons, and steel furnaces consumed 45,065 tons. Although the shipments from iron ore mines were slightly higher than in 1911, they are, with the exception of the previous year, the lowest that have been recorded in thirteen years, and amount to less than 10 per cent. of the year's requirements of blast and steel furnaces.

Mr. J. J. Carrick, M.P. for Port Arthur, in asking the Dominion Government the other week to encourage the development and utilization of Canadian iron ore deposits, drew attention to the fact that during the fiscal year 1912 there were imported into Canada iron and steel products amounting to \$141,000,000. This importation constitutes nearly one-quarter of the total amount of imports of all commodities into Canada during the fiscal year 1912. What would it mean to the development and prosperity of Canada if this vast amount of iron and steel, or even a substantial portion of it, were manufactured in our own factories and steel plants, and from our own iron deposits, asked Mr. Carrick.

During the past year we produced 50 per cent. less Canadian iron ore than we did ten years ago, but the imports of foreign ores have increased 350 per cent. Canadian blast furnaces are closed down, and we are keeping busy United States furnaces and United States steel plants by importing their products.

The situation clearly demands action on the part of the Government.

THE FLAX INDUSTRY

Enormous Hidden Asset—Efforts Made to Secure Bounty For Canadian Flax

While the Government did not decide to grant a bounty to the flax industry at the present session, it has been inferred in certain quarters, from the tone of the Finance Minister's remarks on the question, that there is some probability that the Government will come to the assistance of this industry in the near future.

Hon. Mr. White, Minister of Finance, said in part: "There has been placed before us recently the question of the development in Canada of flax fibre production. I think that the development of the industry of flax fibre production would be of great advantage to certain parts of Canada. It is our intention to look fully into the matter and see whether a reasonable bounty would have the effect of contributing to its institution and development."

Mr. James A. Brook of Montreal, who has been instrumental in bringing this question to the attention of the Government, made out a strong case in his appeal for a bounty.

"The establishment of an industry to utilize the green flax fibre which is now burned, yet perfectly suitable for the manufacture of binder twine and other twines, etc., would increase the productiveness of the West by millions annually, assist towards proper rotating of crops and lead to the institution of factories for the manufacture of goods now imported to the value of about \$8,000,000 per annum, which importation swells the country's "adverse" trade balance.

"The world's flax fibre supply is steadily decreasing. The demand for same which is practically unlimited is as steadily increasing. Recognizing this, the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, U.S.A., Russia, France and Great Britain are spending vast sums for experimental work and grant bounties to private enterprises to create or, where already created, to foster the flax fibre industry. For example, France pays in bounties up to \$50,000 per annum; Australia offers 10 per cent. on market value of all fibre produced, while New Zealand offers \$60,000 for improvements. Canada, in fact, is the only country which has, so far, given no assistance or serious attention to the industry."

HON. MR. FIELDING AND FREE IMPLEMENTS

What Liberal Finance Minister Said
In 1907—Anxious to Ensure Manu-
facture in Canada

In the course of the debate on the reduction of the duty on binders, mowers and reapers from 17½ per cent to 12½ per cent, the Minister of Finance called attention to the statement made by his predecessor, the Hon. W. S. Fielding in 1907, when a motion was introduced to put implements on the free list.

Mr. Fielding said at that time:—"My belief is that if this motion were passed we would strike a severe blow at one of the great industries of the country. I believe the International Harvester Company would find it to its interest to close up its business in Hamilton, at least so much of it as is devoted to mowers and binders and have them made at the American branch and bring them from the United States. The factory in Hamilton is an American concern. With a moderate duty we have induced American capital to come into Canada and to establish that great industry, and after we have brought it in and established it in Canada, I believe that if we were to pass this resolution the company operating that industry would find it profitable to close the Hamilton factory and bring in the goods which they make in the United States."

The freight rate from Chicago and vicinity, in which a great portion of the implements made in the United States for use in the territory adjacent to Minneapolis are made, averages 20 cents per hundred in carload lots from Chicago to Minneapolis. In comparing the price of implements for cash or time in Winnipeg or points adjacent thereto, it should be borne in mind that the freight rate per hundred pounds is 61 cents from Brantford, Hamilton and Toronto in carload lots to Winnipeg. When the price of implements in the Western States, such as Montana, is compared with the price of implements in far West points in Canada, that is where the freight rates are equal, it is seen from the figures submitted by the Minister of Finance that the price is approximately the same in Canada as in the United States.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A Significant Inquiry Touching the
Iron and Steel Industry

In the "Daily Iron Trade" of Cleveland, Ohio, appeared an editorial relating the receipt of a letter from a subscriber in Texas who sought information which would enable him to get in touch with British and European exporters of the following iron and steel products: Wire nails, headed wire, pipe, corrugated sheet, bars, plates, structural steel, bolts, nuts, rivets, rails and spikes, fire brick, pig iron and coal and coke.

The editor calls attention to the fact that this inquiry has resulted through the tariff on steel products being reduced to nearly the zero mark, and that these foreign products would be sold in Texas to the exclusion of American manufactures.

Thus curtailing the business of American industries.

Reducing American workmen's wages.

Closing down American establishments.

Throwing men out of employment in this country.

Enriching the foreigner.

Building up foreign competition and doing no one in America any particular good.

Coming as it does at a time when the steel industry of the United States is running about one-third of its capacity and thousands of its employees are walking the streets looking for work, this item provides food for thought for those in Canada who would still further hamper the iron and steel industry of this country by throwing their products open to competition from the whole world. If for no other reason than that it would keep the iron and steel workers employed on full time the Government should view favorably a policy of reasonable encouragement for the iron and steel industry in this country.

Glasgow, Nov. 26—The British steamer Cassandra, which sailed from Halifax, November 15, for this port, is aground in the Clyde, near Cardross.

News of the War

Russians Captured Nearly 50,000 Men

One German Army Corps Failing to Escape Trap, Fell Into Hands of Victorious Russians.

Petrograd, Nov. 27—Russians are now clamoring for official information of the great victory which the troops of the Czar have gained over the Germans in Poland.

Every new detail causes the extent of the victory to grow in importance. Not only has the army of General von Hindenburg been crushed and the forces divided, it is declared, but the army of General Makenzen, which went to Von Hindenburg's relief, has also been met and defeated. The Germans' front south of Plock is declared to have been cut in two. The Russians have driven a wedge in the German line between Plock and Lowicz, and it is stated the southern half of the army is endeavoring to cut its way through to join the German force to their right, from which they are so cut off. They are virtually surrounded on all sides. The other half of the divided army is vainly endeavoring to fight its way out of the trap into which General von Hindenburg was led by striking toward the south.

Paris, Nov. 27—Telegraphing from Petrograd regarding the fighting around Lodz in Russian Poland, the correspondent of the Matin says:—"One German army corps which was surrounded by Russian troops surrendered in a body. This represents nearly 50,000. Another corps which also had been cut off has now been completely put to rout."

"The Russians are attacking along the Czenstochowa-Cracow line with redoubled intensity."

London, Nov. 27—While the belief grows hourly that the Russians in Northern Poland have won the greatest battle of the war, actual details of the operations in this locality still are withheld, and the whole incident is beginning to take on the aspect of a mystery.

From Petrograd comes a report that the patience of the Russian people awaiting official confirmation of the reported victory is approaching the breaking point, and the same thing may be said of the public here. German reports, without entering into any such details as dates, describe successful operations in the neighborhood of this great battle, but admit that the German army has not succeeded in bringing the struggle to a close.

London, Nov. 27—Hamilton, N.Y., in a despatch from Petrograd to the London Daily Mail, says:—"There is an undercurrent here on this snowy day which is setting everybody on type of expectation. Great news has been made public, but the despatches were so worded as to make high hopes."

The policy of the Russian Headquarters Staff has been to make the official statements light until they can have sufficient proof that they are true.

The Kaiser's historical telegrams, alternately imploring and commanding his generals to save their country from invasion by hurling back the Russian armies appear to have flustered and worried them so much that they did not stop to form plans, but advanced blindly and put their heads into a noose which the Russians are waiting to pull tight. The haul of prisoners, already enormous, must be within a few days greater still.

"It seems impossible from the information available at present for the northern half of the German force to join up again with the southern half, or for the capture of the best part of any army corps to be avoided."

Berlin, Nov. 27—An official report issued in Vienna says the fighting in Russian Poland has assumed the proportions of a continuous battle. In western Galicia our troops have repulsed the Russians. Marked progress has been made in the fighting in the Carpathians. Near the Czebarka River, in Serbia, the enemy's centre is in a very strong position near Lazareval, but we attacked and took 1,200 prisoners, three guns, four ammunition wagons and three machine guns. To the south of Liji we took the eastern heights and 300 prisoners. From Valjevo our troops have advanced to Kosjovici.

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RUSSIANS REPORT MORE SUCCESSES

Petrograd, Nov. 27—The following statement has been received from the Russian commander-in-chief:—"On the Czenstochowa-Cracow front our successes are assuming a marked importance. Our troops on Nov. 26, captured more than 4,000 prisoners. Our offensive was particularly fortunate on the lower Sreniawa river, where a whole battalion of the 31st Honved Regiment surrendered."

"Our troops also storm a powerfully fortified Austrian position on the left bank of the Raba, where some of our attacking units forded the river during the breaking up of the ice, and attacked the enemy. The water was neck-deep in the river. "The Austrians desperately defended Bochnia (35 miles southeast of Cracow which we storm), capturing more than 2,000 prisoners, machine guns and ten field guns. On the left bank of the Vistula, the enemy in the region of Cracow is beginning to retreat in disorder. Our troops are pursuing them energetically."

"According to the reports of the commanders of the armies the morale of our troops, who have been hardened by almost continuous fighting for forty-five days is very high. "Trustworthy reports show that the Austrians have mounted in the centre of Cracow wireless apparatus and machine guns, for protection against attacking aeroplanes."

Collier Khartoum and Two Steamers Lost

Collier Was Sunk by Mine and
Steamers Rammed by Sub-
marine—Crew Saved

London, Nov. 27, 5 p. m.—The British admiralty this evening announced that the collier Khartoum had been blown up today by a mine off Grimsby. The crew of the Khartoum was landed at Grimsby.

Grimsby is on the south bank of the Humber, fifteen miles southeast of Hull. The Khartoum was of 1,930 tons net. She was 315 feet long, 40 feet beam, and 20 feet top. The vessel was built at Stockton in April, 1893.

SUBMARINE SINKS TWO STEAMERS

London, Nov. 27—It was reported by Lloyds today that two British steamers were sunk off Havre yesterday by German submarines. The steamers were the Malachite and the Primo.

The crews of both vessels were rescued. The men from the Malachite were landed at Southampton, and those from the Primo at Fecamp, a French port on the English Channel.

CAN DEPEND ON POWER OF NAVY

Winston Spencer Churchill Declares its Strength is Growing as War Proceeds

London, Nov. 27—Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, in a speech in the House of Commons this evening, before the adjournment of the lower house to February 2, told the country, that despite the loss of some of the older ships of the British navy, there was no cause for nervousness, but every reason for complete confidence in the power of the navy to give effect to the wishes and purposes of the empire.

The first lord told of the danger to British ships from mines and submarines, and the possibility of armored and fast enemy liners escaping to the high seas to prey on the Allies' shipping, which, he added, had been prevented thus far. He concluded his speech with the statement that there was another danger, "that of an overseas invasion—an enterprise full of danger for those who might attempt it."

Mr. Churchill said, that considering the work the navy had done in the protection of British commerce, the restrictions it had placed on the enemy's supplies and the conveying of it of great number of troops and from across the world, and with one's eyes fixed on the mischance that had occurred, and knowing all the circumstances, he was bound to say: "I think we have had a share of the luck."

On the whole, the first lord said he considered the navy had done well. It was, he declared, driving German commerce from the seas, and preventing enemies getting war material which they needed more and more as the war proceeded. Even if England were single-handed, there would be no reason to despair, but with the French in control in the Mediterranean, and Japan in the Pacific, and the Russian navy developing, "we could go on indefinitely, receiving our supplies from wherever we need them, transporting our troops wherever they are required, and continue the process with our strength growing greater every month, until at the end of, perhaps, at not very distant date, we achieve the purpose for which we are fighting."

British submarines, Mr. Churchill said, could not score, as the German ships did not come out to fight, but he added that the British torpedo boat destroyers had proved their superiority in gun power, a fact that was unknown before the war.

As for building, the first lord said, Britain would add fifteen capital ships to her fleet before the end of 1915 to Germany's three. In fact, he declared, Britain could lose one super-dreadnought monthly for a year and still maintain her superiority over Germany in these ships. Light cruisers, Mr. Churchill continued, were being rapidly added to the British fleet, and Britain had commissioned, since the commencement of the war, more than Germany had had destroyed or interned. This number, including the Breslau, he said, amounts to six.

The loss of British merchant ships, the first lord said, was a loss that had been anticipated by the admiralty. Nevertheless Britain had been able, by virtue of its sea power, to draw from all over the world for the cause of the Allies everything that was needed, including an abundant supply of munitions, while deficiencies in these commodities were beginning clearly to show in the enemy's military organization.

German Battleships Reported Blown Up

Wilhelm DerGrosse Struck Mine and Sunk in Baltic

Paris, Nov. 28—A despatch to the Matin from Petrograd states that it is reported that the German battleship Wilhelm Der Grosse struck a mine and sank in the Baltic, but adds that there is no official confirmation of the rumor.

The battleship Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse, evidently referred to in the Matin despatch, is one of Germany's old battleships, having been built in 1901. The warship is of 19,790 tons displacement and carries a crew of 658 men. Her main battery is composed of four 9.4 inch and fourteen 6 inch guns.

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ASSETS	
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Call Loans in Canada	9,189,279.16
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