

quarry beds, or in the oils and gases of Western Ontario? Where will the artist find landscape views to satisfy him better than in Muskoka and Northern Ontario, or where can the physical features of any country afford a better field of labor in advancing, promoting and benefiting the commercial and industrial pursuits which can be undertaken.

CANADIAN IRON INDUSTRY.

BY GEORGE E. DRUMMOND, OF THE CANADA IRON FURNACE COMPANY.

(Concluded.)

The utilization of the hard and soft woods of our forests, at present waste material, would be of incalculable benefit to the Provinces of Ontario and Québec, and, above all, to the agriculturists of these provinces.

Next to the farming class the railways of Canada would perhaps be the greatest gainers by the establishment of an iron industry.

In the case of the Government railway, the Intercolonial, it is safe to say that the combined operations of the Londonderry Iron Company, the New Glasgow Iron, Coal and Railway Company, and the Nova Scotia Steel and Forge Company, furnish one-fifth of all the freight business of the railway in question.

The Piles branch of the C.P.R., on which the works of the Canada Iron Furnace Company are located, is perhaps the best paying piece of line possessed by that great trans continental road, and this is very largely due to the fact that every pound of raw material inwards to the furnace, and finished product outwards to the market, contribute to the revenue of the railway company.

It is plain that any policy that would serve to cripple these iron industries will be severely felt by the railways. Perhaps the greatest difficulty that has stood in the way of the advancement of the Canadian iron industry up to the present time has been the uncertainty of the tariff, and political cries of "Commercial Union," "Unrestricted Reciprocity," "Free Trade," and "Revenue Tariff" have served to frighten capitalists, so that the Canadian iron masters have found it very difficult to obtain investors for the carrying forward of the work on a proper basis. When the difficulties are all considered, it is remarkable that the industry has reached even its present stage.

The United States at the present time presents an example of what uncertainty regarding tariff changes will do. During the past six months business has been completely demoralized in the iron trade of the Republic by the fear of a possible change in the duties. This in the face of the fact that both parties in Congress are known to be more or less protectionist in theory and practice, the difference being only one of degree, whereas in Canada politicians are most extreme in their views, and the battle against protection to native industries has been waged in and out of Parliament during all the term that the so-called National Policy has been in existence.

With such a nucleus as the existing establishments afford, with unlimited supplies of raw material, and possessing the best of all markets—a home market—the Canadian iron industry cannot fail to expand rapidly and safely—probably, as in the case of the United States, much more rapidly than the population, if only the Government of Canada will establish confidence in the minds of capitalists by, in some manner, giving a

degree of permanency to the present protective tariff. Minor details will from time to time require adjustment, but the broad principle of protection to an industry for which Nature has so eminently fitted the Dominion, must be endorsed by both Government and Opposition, giving a fair period of time in which to secure a full development of the industry, so that it may meet, on something like equal terms, the opposition of its powerful competitors in the United States and Great Britain. Without this the industry will be restricted, and in times of depression such as the present, the iron masters of the United States will simply unload their bankrupt stocks into Canada, with the end that a healthy Canadian industry will be an utter impossibility.

It is a notable fact that during the past four years the increased output of the Canadian furnaces has led to a decreased cost of production per ton of iron, and Canadian makers have now forced foreign agents to lower their prices fully \$3 per ton from prices asked four years ago. A well-maintained tariff for some years to come will have exactly the same tendency as it had in Great Britain and the United States, viz., to strengthen and expand the native industry to the point where Canadians can control the entire trade of the country, and yet sell to the consumer at as low a price as any foreign competitor can do in his own country.

Location.—The question of the proper location of coke and charcoal furnaces will be settled by the natural fitness of each province. Nova Scotia, possessing as she does a great wealth of mineral fuel, must continue for some years to come to produce the coke iron required by the country. It may be urged that she is far removed from her best market, viz., Ontario. However, Nova Scotia is in quite as good a position in this respect, and ought to be, in regard to freight rates, as her present greatest competitors, viz., the furnaces of the Southern United States. Within the past two years Nova Scotia has made great progress in the erection of modern plants and improved appliances. She must continue on this course, for the time is past when iron can be successfully produced without improved appliances both in construction and modern methods of operation. The blast furnace must meet the consumers' wants in quality of iron and mechanical knowledge, and administrative ability must be joined together in Canada just as in the United States, to secure the increased output, and the high quality of iron which the times demand. Quebec and Ontario afford a splendid field for the development of the charcoal and iron industry, and this department will become more and more important as the forests of the neighboring Republic and Sweden are depleted.

It is hardly feasible under existing circumstances to successfully establish coke furnaces in either Ontario or Quebec, inasmuch as these provinces would have to depend upon importing their supply of fuel from the United States. Such an industry would be of little value to the provinces or the Dominion, inasmuch as by far the largest proportion of labor required in the manufacture of iron is that connected with the mines, both coal and iron. Certainly the Government would not be warranted in granting a bounty for the establishment of an industry contributing as largely as this would to the labor of our most important competitor, the United States.

There is a reasonable hope that in due time Nova Scotian coal will be profitably coked at Montreal, and other centres of population, through the utilization of