

"The Canadian iron ores were examined with great care and attention by the agents of Russia; it seemed to strike them with wonder that such prodigious sources should be found in any country but their own, and the public in general, without taking into consideration the question of its present application to profitable uses, seemed to regard the great beds of magnetic oxide as national magazines in which was stored up a vast amount of material indispensable to the comfort and progress of mankind, which it is always satisfactory to the inhabitants of a country to know is within their reach and control, should circumstances arise to render its application expedient or necessary."

It may be well here to mention the existence, on the shores of Lake Huron, at the location of the Wallace Mine, of important deposits of specular iron, having in the vein, it is said, a width of fifteen feet, and containing 68 per cent of metallic iron. This lode would yield 20 tons of metallic iron per cubic fathom, or, at a breadth of 12 feet, 40 tons for every fathom forward by a fathom vertical. So also in the township of Macnab there is a bed 25 feet in thickness of this ore, containing 23 per cent of pure metal.

To return, however, to the bed of magnetic iron ore in Belmont, Marmora and Madoc, in the rear of Belleville. Although four to five tons of excellent pig iron per day have been made at the Marmora Iron Works, even so far back as 1850, yet the production has been far from what it might, and, indeed, ought to have been. Charcoal is the fuel employed, and it is well known that this material is admirably adapted for smelting purposes, and with good ore yields an iron of excellent quality. The chief difficulties of carrying on extensive mining operations among the wonderfully rich beds of the townships before named may be simply stated in two words, 'fuel' and 'roads.' Both of these difficulties are fast vanishing; and recent events inspire a hope that the time has now arrived when mining industry will rapidly extend itself over those remarkable townships which lie between Matchedash Bay and Kingston, at the junction of the fossiliferous and the unfossiliferous rocks of Canada.

Let us now review the position of the incipient mining districts of that long stretch of country.

Iron ore in great abundance, of remarkable richness and purity, and easily accessible in its place, exists in certain townships within 30 miles of a railway, and at the terminus of a projected railway—in Belmont, Marmora, Madoc, &c. &c. Forest trees, amply sufficient for the production of all the charcoal likely to be required for some years, exists within available distance from the ore beds; water power of great extent can be secured almost on the spot, yet still the great ore beds are not worked to any degree corresponding to the advantages they seem to offer, and mainly from the want of a suitable supply of cheap fuel, cheap provisions, and cheap means of communication with Lake ports. The new circumstances in which this country has been placed by the construction of railways during the past year, do not only seem likely to revive the interest and importance formerly attached to the Marmora iron works and the vast iron deposits of that region of country, but they promise to increase them to an extent before unthought of.

This great mining region lies at present upon the outskirts of the settled parts of the country. North of it extends a wilderness for many hundred