OUR PIG IRON MADE FROM NEWFOUNDLAND ORE

Wabana Deposit is the Source of Supply—Except in Canada, There is No Large Pig Iron Production in British Dominions

Some interesting evidence concerning the demand for and supply of iron ore was given before a meeting of the Dominion Royal Commission held in England last year, by Mr. Wallace Thorneycroft. It was stated that most of the ore imported into Great Britain was made into Bessemer hematite pig-iron, which was used for steel making by the acid process. For that purpose the ore must contain very little phosphorus. Great Britain imported in the year 1909, 6,326,000 tons of iron ore, of which nearly 6,000,000 tons was Bessemer ore.

Nearly 5,000,000 tons of this Bessemer ore came from Spain, and the balance from Sweden, Norway, Greece, France, Algeria and Tunis. Except 62,000 tons from Newfoundland, no ore was imported during that period from the Dominions. Cumberland and North Lancashire supplied 1,558,000 tons of Bessemer ore. Therefore the Bessemer pig-iron industry depended upon foreign ore supplies.

Spanish Supply Becoming Exhausted.

It was probable that the deposits of Bessemer ore in Spain would be approaching exhaustion 25 years hence. It was also probable that supplies of this quality of ore would be got from other countries, but at an increased cost of freight. There were large known deposits in Brazil, Cuba, Chili and Venezuela, some of which were being developed.

The Wabana deposit in Newfoundland, from which the bulk of Canada's production of pig-iron was made, was said to contain over 3,000 million tons of ore. But as it contained .75 of phosphorus it was unsuitable for the manufacture of steel by the acid process. It was largely exported to Germany and Belgium, where steel was manufactured by the basic process, by which the phosphorus was extracted from the steel.

Basic steel, it was stated, was not as reliable as steel manufactured by the acid process from Bessemer ore containing less than 0.5 of phosphorus. If the basic principle were adopted in this country there would be a greater demand for Newfoundland ore. The more rapid growth of the pig-iron industry in Germany and the United States was, it was said, entirely due to the invention of the basic process.

Iron in the British Dominions.

Except in Canada there was, so far as is known, no production of pig-iron on a large scale in the Dominions. The governments of the Dominions, it was stated, might, with advantage, provide more money for the geological survey of the territory under their control. There could be no more profitable investment. They should publish the results of the surveys made as rapidly as possible, and communicate advance copies to the iron and steel associations of this country, or abstracts and references to such publications.

It was not suggested that the governments should undertake detailed prospecting work. The geological department of Canada was already very good, but with the vast area it had to cover, progress was necessarily slow.

Deposits in Canada.

The indication of large deposits, especially Bessemer ore, accessible for shipment anywhere in eastern Canada or Newfoundland would promptly be investigated in detail by British makers of iron and steel and ample capital would soon be found if the deposits warranted development.

It would be right for the Dominion governments to encourage the export of iron ore. If the economic conditions around the deposits were favorable, production of pig iron and steel would naturally follow.

The preliminary statement of the Prudential Life Insurance Company for 1912 shows that this western company has issued $2,500,000 business during the year. They will close the year with over $7,500,000 in force. The premium on the 1912 business averages $35.54 per $1,000. The average premium per $1,000 on the total business in force is $32.27.

During the past season of navigation the shipments of butter from Montreal were the smallest on record, amounting to 70 packages, as compared with 134,503 for the season of 1911. The exports of cheese from Montreal show a decrease from those of last year, being 1,723,021 boxes as compared with 1,810,666 for the corresponding period of 1911. Combined shipments from Montreal and Quebec show a decrease of 117,304 boxes.

CANADA IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE

New High Record Set Last Year for World's Business—Official Figures of Seventy Countries

The world's international commerce will establish a new high record in 1912, present indications being that the total will aggregate 35 billion dollars, against 31 billion in 1910, 20 billion in 1900, and 17½ billion in 1890, having thus doubled in twenty-two years. These figures are the result of a compilation from the official publications of about 70 leading countries.

This estimate of the probable aggregate of world commerce in 1912 is based upon the official figures of trade of the various countries during such portions of the year as can be shown, covering in most cases the first six months and in some instances extending down to the end of September. Nearly all the important countries show larger totals for 1912 than in 1911 or any earlier year. Reducing the figures to a common basis (the monthly average for such parts of the year as are available) imports into the United Kingdom increased from 265 million dollars per month in 1911 to 286 million in 1912; the United States, from 126 million to 148 million; Germany, from 186 to 203 million dollars; Austria-Hungary, from 51 to 59 million dollars; Belgium, from 67 to 70 million; Canada, from 30 to 52 million dollars; Japan, from 26 to 28 million dollars; Switzerland, from 28 to 30 million; and India, from 34 million to 40 million dollars.

Few Countries Show Decrease

A few countries show a decrease in their monthly importations, France from an average of 132 million per month in 1911 to 127 million in 1912; Argentina, from 31 million to 30 million dollars; Mexico, from 8½ million to 7½ million, and Russia, from 43½ to 42 million. Practically every country increased its exports, the average monthly exportation of Canada, for example, increasing from 20 million dollars in 1911 to 27 million in 1912; France, from 94 million to 102 million; Germany, from 153 to 166 million; India, from 61 to 66½ million; the United Kingdom, from 179 million to 192 million; and the United States, from 159 million to 177 million dollars; while that of Argentina decreased from 34 million dollars in 1911 to 31 million in 1912, and that of Russia, from 59 million to 51 million dollars.

Total Value of Imports

The total value of imports into the 70 principal countries and colonies of the world in 1911 approximated 17⅔ billion dollars. Deducing from this the imports of the United States leaves a total of 16 billion dollars as the value of the foreign market in which American products and manufactures may be sold. Of this total of 16 billion, imports from the United States amounted to 2 billion, or one-eighth of their total imports. The countries taking the largest proportionate share of their imports from the United States are: Haiti 69.5 per cent.; Honduras 68.2 per cent.; Canada 61.7 per cent.; Santo Domingo 60.6 per cent.; Panama 56 per cent.; Mexico 54.9 per cent.; Cuba 52.8 per cent., and Costa Rica 51.3 per cent. The United Kingdom takes 17.3 per cent. of its imports from us; Germany 13.3 per cent., and France 8.6 per cent. of her total. The largest markets for American products, measured by their valuation of imports from the United States, are the United Kingdom 572 million dollars; Canada 285 million; Germany 283 million; France 119 million; Netherlands 117 million; Italy 70 million; Cuba 57 million; Mexico 56 million; Austria-Hungary, Argentina and Belgium, between 45 and 50 million each and Australia, Brazil, Russia, and Japan, sums ranging downward from 32 to 27 million dollars.

South American Countries.

Of the South American countries, Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru take from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. of their respective imports from the United States, while the remainder take smaller proportions; ranging from 13.8 per cent. of those into Argentina and 12.8 per cent. of those into Brazil to but 2.8 per cent. of those into Bolivia. Certain other contries take comparatively small portions of their imports from the United States, American imports into China in 1910 constituting but 5.2 per cent. of her total imports; into India 2.7 per cent.; Morocco, less than 1 per cent; Servia, 1.3 per cent.; Turkey, 1.3 per cent., and Roumania, about 1 per cent. of her total imports.

The White House is reported by the fire department of the District of Columbia to be an easy prey of fire because of insufficient water mains and fire hydrants in the vicinity of the historic building. Thus in the "first house" of the United States is represented a condition that is only too general throughout the continent.