

HOME AND YOUTH

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THE POINT OF THE PEN

CANADA'S GREATNESS.

Prof. Roberts-Austin, in his admirable paper on "The Metals of Canada," presented at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science held in Toronto recently, expressed the opinion that the country which possessed the iron possessed also the gold. In other words, that the possession of iron was of more value to a country than the possession of gold, on account of the extensive demand for the former metal and the numerous industries which would be called into existence and maintained by its production, manufacture and sale. The statement may also be taken to mean that iron being a staple commodity for which the demand is constant, the country which possesses it may with certainty count on receiving gold in exchange for whatever quantity it may have to offer.

The author of this paper in demonstrating the molecular action of metals showed the impact of a cannon ball on the steel armor plate of a vessel to resemble the splash of a stone dropped into water. He illustrated the lessened effect upon the plate when 22 per cent. of nickel was incorporated with the

steel, and further showed that when 37 per cent. of nickel was contained in the plate the impact of the projectile was powerless to penetrate or destroy the armor.

The deduction drawn from these demonstrations is one of the highest interest to Canadians, namely, that the use of nickel plated armor is essential to the continued supremacy of the British navy, and that inasmuch as Canada is known to possess the largest nickel deposits of any country in the world, the Dominion becomes a very necessary part of the British empire.

This is another important link in the chain of circumstances that have lately transpired tending to make known the natural resources of Canada and its desirability as a field for enterprise, alike to those possessed of capital as well as those whose only capital is an upright character and a willingness to labor with hands and brain.

Evidence is daily accumulating to prove that Canada possesses the diversity of resources necessary to sustain a large population. The news of our mineral wealth and of the magnificent harvests that are being reaped from the fertile lands of our Northwest is