

iron, which may be computed to be worth \$30 a ton, or a sum equal to \$750,000 annually. It is also proposed to erect Rolling Mills at a cost of £15,000, these will turn out 25,000 tons of Railway Iron yearly. In addition to this, if you add £7,000 further expenditure, which will be made, we shall be able to make all descriptions and sizes of Bar Iron, Nail Rods, and Nail plates, to the extent of \$800,000 yearly. So that, if encouraged and conducted upon only a moderate scale, this establishment will retain in the country \$2,050,000 annually, now sent to other countries for the articles we can produce ourselves. You will perceive that my calculations are here confined to the operations of the Marmora Iron Company alone, and when you take into consideration the valuable iron mines to be found in other sections of the Province, the reflecting mind can see no bounds to the wealth of this country, if energy, industry, and public attention are given to the development of the resources of our mineral wealth.

5th. Should Parliament legislate as it has done, exclusively for agriculture, or should we be prepared to encourage manufactures?

Beyond all doubt this country makes a great mistake in legislating exclusively as we do, as if we were only an agricultural country. We forget that our mineral wealth is such as to induce and lead to the support of industrious habits, and if properly fostered, can only produce wealth. We shut our eyes to the fact, that our minerals are more precious than gold, for they afford employment,—healthy, honest employment to the labourer and the artisan, and create and encourage an honest and industrious population, such as the working of mines of precious metals can never produce. So far from Canada being essentially and entirely an agricultural country, we have been longer wedded to the one opinion than is good for us. Ignorant economists have failed to examine the country, and have never thought of our climate. The climate is suited to manufactures, for in many localities the duration of the harder seasons renders agriculture precarious. Whereas if due consideration is given to our capabilities, Canada will become a large and prosperous manufacturing country; and therefore, in my opinion, we are bound to encourage this branch of economical industry. Can we doubt that we have the material? Certainly not. For we are daily exporting the raw material to other states, and then bring it back into our own country manufactured, pay a large additional charge for foreign labour, art, and industry, and profits on each, and duty in our own; and all because no encouragement is given to the young manufactories in our own country; when we could produce articles, at least as cheap, and probably of better quality, if our economists had the same desire to protect their own, as they have to appear magnanimous in the light of foreigners.

6th. What effect has the free trade or reciprocity system as it now exists upon the manufacturing of iron.

The American free trade or reciprocity system we now have, pretends to open its doors to all articles, while, in fact, we are excluded from their markets. Her gates of commerce are closed against us, while we fling ours wide open for them to enter by. Take, for example, the article of iron to which your question directly refers. If we enter their ports with any of our manufactures we are met by a duty of 30 per cent., and in some instances of peculiar make even higher; while they can enter Canada, and compete with our awakening and growing enterprise at 15 per cent. The United States