

The manufacturers of Ontario, who are the largest consumers of iron in the Dominion, have, through their Association, asked that duties of \$3 per ton on pig be imposed; the consumers of the other Provinces are, also, generally favourable to the imposition of protective duties, all being apparently alive to the importance of encouraging the home manufacture of iron. And it is evident that if the value of an industry to the country in which it is established, and therefore its right to claim protection, depends upon the extent to which it affords employment to labor, none can prefer a stronger claim to consideration than the manufacturer of iron, the whole cost of the article produced being practically for wages, as the ore, coal, lime, and other materials used, possess in themselves no value while lying in the bowels of the earth; and, further, that as the manufacture of iron requires the employment of strong, able-bodied men, almost exclusively, it sustains a far greater population than most other industries, in which women and children are largely employed. Without such protection as will enable it, at least, to avoid loss, the Steel Company of Canada cannot long continue to operate its works, and as their stoppage would practically amount to an almost total loss of the large capital invested, it is unnecessary to dwell on the discouraging effect it would have on all further attempts to establish iron manufacturing in Canada.

GILLESPIE, MOFFATT & CO.,

Agents,

Montreal.

IMPORTS of Coal and Iron (from the Blue Books), and Estimated Amount paid for Transportation.

Years.	Total Iron Imports.	Total Coal Imports.	Total Coal and Iron Imports.	Estimated Amount of Freight.	Total paid for Iron, Coal, and External Freights.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1872.....	12,291,908	2,015,233	14,307,141	1,198,638	15,503,779
1873.....	20,202,753	2,557,789	22,760,542	1,198,334	23,958,876
1874.....	18,878,411	3,803,260	22,681,671	1,658,828	24,330,499
1875.....	15,783,960	3,076,088	18,860,048	1,354,870	20,214,918
1876.....	11,600,897	3,320,060	14,920,957	1,637,760	16,558,717
1877.....	9,330,982	3,499,561	12,820,543	1,917,960	14,748,503
1878.....	8,298,517	3,054,846	11,353,363	1,839,596	13,192,959
Total	90,387,428	21,356,837	117,714,265	10,793,966	128,508,251