

B.A.Sc. This report refers to only two properties—the Puget Sound Iron Company's property on Texada Island and the Glen Iron Mine near Kamloops. The only reason why these two properties are always chosen as representing the iron ore deposits of B. C. is perhaps the fact that, with the exception of a few tons shipped from Redonda Island, they are the only deposits from which considerable tonnage has been shipped.

As a matter of fact from a practical blastfurnace standpoint the two properties mentioned are the least desirable of any of the known deposits, from the fact that the sulphur content in the Texada ore especially, is very high, which necessitates roasting before smelting, some of the lenses carrying as high as .30 per cent. of copper. Notwithstanding this, however, it is admitted that there is a very large deposit of high grade magnetite, estimates of the tonnage varying according to the opinion of the expert from 4,500,000 tons to 20,000,000 tons, while, according to W. M. Brewer, M. E., who spent the summer of 1916 in examining iron properties for the Provincial Government, the total tonnage of actual probable and possible iron ore on Vancouver Island and adjacent islands, is only 12,888,200 tons. In the face of all this conflicting expert opinion it is very evident that some other and more reliable means of determining the extent and value of our iron deposits must be found before real capital can be induced to come and establish the industry. The necessity for this is so patent that it seems almost superfluous to refer to it. Never a day passes but I get some kind of an enquiry regarding this industry in some shape or other.

As stated in the preface of the memorandum, Hamilton pig iron costs, delivered in Vancouver, \$69 per ton. I have no hesitation in making the statement that, even with the present high wages and cost of coke and other materials entering into the manufacture, good foundry pig iron could be made from our own ores, and a good profit realized therefrom, at \$35.00 per ton. This means a saving of 100 per cent. on all castings entering into the production of our various foundries and machine shops. The market for foundry pig iron in B. C. is at least 10,000 tons per year, and will be considerably increased by the shipbuilding industry, which we now hope has come to stay, and herein lies the crux of the question under consideration today.

Iron and steel forms the basis of all industry, and in future the nation who possesses in greatest abundance the natural resources in coal, iron