

clays for terra cotta and pressed brick. In fine, as the Report testifies, the Province contains almost all of the economic minerals, in workable quantities, except coal. Yet, as the Commission states, "the tolls upon trade and the want of facilities for cheap transportation are a hindrance so serious to the employment of capital that a number of the most promising of known mineral properties are either lying idle or are being worked in the face of great odds." Another drawback is the state of the mining laws, which put obstacles in the way. American prospectors and explorers seem to suffer, to the great loss of the Province, for more than one-half of the capital now invested in the mines of Ontario is said to be American, "in spite of the repellent conditions imposed by trade policies upon both sides of the line." The restrictions imposed by these trade policies fatally repress mining enterprises in the country, and the commissioners call attention to them in the hope that they may be removed. The Report cites the fact that by long odds the United States, in spite of the tariff imposts, is our principal customer for the products of the mine. Says the report: "The value of the mineral exports of Ontario alone to the United States for the twenty fiscal years 1869 to 1888 was \$14,329,330 and to all the rest of the world it was \$3,342,894. These figures present in a striking light the natural commercial affinity which exists between the two great Anglo-Saxon divisions of the Continent, and open a field of speculative inquiry as to what might have been the volume of the business if trade restrictions had not clogged its movement." To clinch what it has to say on this point the Report adds that "everywhere among men interested in mining operations, with the exception of those engaged in producing and refining petroleum, the Commissioners have met with expressions of an earnest desire to see the American markets opened to the admission of Canadian minerals free of duty upon terms equally fair to both countries." Such is the voice of nature regarding our commercial relations. How long will it be stifled by the politicians in the interest of their ambition?