

COMMERCIAL

How it would affect the Mining

Meeting of the Toronto Club—An able Paper read by T. D. Ledyard—The Obstacles in the Way of its Development Pointed Out—Ontario—The Expansion of the Iron Trade Under Com

The subject of mining in Ontario is at present attracting increased attention, and the public will read with interest whatever throws light on the subject. The following paper was read by Mr. T. D. Ledyard, a Conservative citizen of Toronto, before the Commercial Union Club of that city, upon the advantages unrestricted Reciprocity would bring to the development of our mineral resources:

A meeting of the Toronto Commercial Union Club was held on Friday evening in Association hall, when the following paper on the mining interests of Canada was read by Mr. T. D. Ledyard. After a few introductory words, Mr. Ledyard said: In considering the mining interests of a country, coal and iron are by far the most important. These minerals are at the foundation of England's greatness, and nature favors any country in which they are found in abundance. They do not enrich any individual or set of men so much as they benefit the whole community. Coal, however, except in the case of coke, undergoes no change until it passes into consumption, requiring only mining and transporting before it reaches the consumer; but iron requires the labor of many hands at every stage, and its value is multiplied many fold before it reaches its consumer. Take steel rails, for instance, which is only one case out of many; one and a half tons of high grade iron ore are required to make a ton of steel rails. This ore costs, say, \$3 to mine, but the ton of steel rails is worth at least \$30. That is, the value of steel rails is ten times the value of the ore which made them, showing that nine-tenths of their cost is distributed in the labor of smelting the ore, the cost of fuel and of transportation, and in the different processes they undergo until the perfect steel rails are produced. By far the greater proportion of this is expended in labor, and therefore it is that iron and steel manufacture benefits a country more than any other. For this reason the state of the iron trade is the financial barometer of a country's prosperity; if the iron trade is prosperous wages are good and freely distributed, and other lines of business take their cue from it. My remarks will, therefore, be chiefly confined to our iron interests.

THE SPANISH MINES NEARLY EXHAUSTED.

Here is one very important point in considering the Canadian ore question. While our grain markets are being cut off by Indian and Russian wheat, our ores are likely to be required at an early date. England derives most of her Bessemer ore from Spain, from whence also the United States gets the greater part of their imported ores. For some time past reports have appeared showing that the Spanish ore deposits cannot last much longer. Recently a statement has been

freight to Montreal is high, still higher to Toronto and prohibitory to Winnipeg. The natural market for Nova Scotia coal and iron is, of course, in the Eastern States, and the market for British Columbia coal and iron is in the Pacific States, and did not the tariff prevent it a great trade would be done, to the mutual benefit of both countries.

RICHNESS OF CANADIAN IRON ORE.

During the year 1887 the United States used 13,250,000 tons of iron ore, of which 12,000,000 was produced from their own mines, and one million and a quarter imported mostly from Spain, but very little from Canada. The ores imported from Spain are of Bessemer quality, and very free from impurities, but are not so rich in iron as some of our Canadian ores, the average Spanish ore not yielding more than 50 to 55 per cent of iron, while some of our ores run as high as 62 to 67 per cent of metallic iron. Under reciprocity with the States a great part of these Spanish ores would be replaced by Canadian to the great advantage both of our neighbors and ourselves. The advantage to the United States blast furnaces in importing Spanish and other Bessemer ores from Europe is that at certain points on the Atlantic coast, or contiguous to Atlantic ports, these ores can be laid down cheaper than Lake Superior Bessemer ores. The advantage is simply in the cheapness of these foreign ores; they give employment to no one in the United States, either in mining or in transportation to the Atlantic ports, as they are generally brought over as ballast in foreign vessels. Whereas, if the duty were removed from Canadian ores, these could be delivered from the Ontario iron districts to good distributing points on the lakes, such as Charlotte, Fairhaven, Buffalo, Cleveland, Fairport or Ashtabula, cheaper than Spanish ores can be imported and American cars and railways would have the carrying of them.

CONVENIENT LOCATION OF ONTARIO'S MINES.

Ontario has large deposits of excellent Bessemer ore so situated that it can be delivered at Buffalo very cheaply. Go down to the Esplanade and walk from the Don to the western boundary of the city along the railway tracks, and any day you will see hundreds of coal cars which come here from the coal regions of the United States laden with coal, some of which go east to Belleville, perhaps further, and some north-east to Lindsay, but after unloading their coal they mostly go back empty. Now, when these cars are at Belleville or Lindsay they are not far from our Bessemer iron ores, which they could take back as return freight, and deliver at furnaces in Pennsylvania close to their destination. A large trade would be done in this way if there was no duty; our iron mines that are now lying idle would be developed, benefiting our back country more than anything

a whole country as Canada. The extent for hunting for iron ore is bad ore in all the ironiferous ore in the north shore of the district where the "Co." produces and similarly, and sulphur and Menominee dis celebrated mining fair, therefore, because in some districts are to matters. Not mines have spr our own people demn the pro People who kn have told me t strangely enou ponents of Com themselves all is a queer loyal whatever is go tions.

Within 110 m to the Midland and also near t are deposits of quality. An a bed

IN THE shows sulphur, phorus, 0.002, mitted limit fo metallic iron, 6 on the exceptio er analysis of a this deposit give anese 0.42; phos nium; none; sul analyses were blast furnaces confirmed the fi for Chapman, Science," from ore, who remar ly good ore, no metal, quite fr cally free from while the rock fluxing. It is ment by the B man's opinion practical iron n Cleveland writ this quality tha Heys, of this bed, makes a quality of the least one mil hundred feet o