

mala, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Republic of Columbia, Philippine Islands, Venezuela, Ecuador, British East Indies, and possibly Australia. It is worthy of note that Japan alone imports from all countries iron and steel manufactures of \$16,000,000 value—an increase of 100 per cent. over the preceding year.

It will be seen at a glance that these markets, if supplied by Canada, must, owing to transcontinental railway charges, depend upon Pacific Coast mills and factories. With unhampered restrictions upon the raw material from British Columbia, it is possible that our energetic neighbors might arise to the occasion and become formidable competitors. Much depends at the present juncture on the uses made of our opportunities. Your committee are of the opinion that this question has not been entered upon too soon.

#### IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL.

As showing the extent of the home market, the following figures are taken from the Statistical Year Book on imported iron and steel manufactures, exception being taken on ship's boilers, fish hooks, printing presses, tin plate, sheets, etc.

Year ending 30th June.

	Dutiable.	Free.	Total.
1892 ....	\$ 9,968,409	\$2,673,033	\$12,641,442
1893 ....	10,113,177	3,080,346	13,199,223
1894 ....	8,776,533	2,554,238	11,310,771
1895 ....	7,405,923	1,843,826	9,249,749
1896 ....	8,463,747	2,488,860	10,952,607
1897 ....	8,666,497	1,947,133	10,613,630
1898 ....	12,691,772	3,864,980	16,556,761
1899 ....	15,621,346	4,147,379	19,768,725
1900 ....	22,299,073	7,130,160	30,429,233
1901 ....	18,738,135	8,042,323	26,780,458

Total 10 years: Dutiable, \$122,734,612; free, \$37,778,287; or a grand total of free and dutiable imports of \$160,512,899 for the past ten years.

#### DOMINION GOVERNMENT BOUNTY ON STEEL.

Recognizing the immense advantages accruing to the Dominion in being enabled to provide for the ever-increasing demand for iron and steel, the Dominion Government offers a bounty of \$3 per ton on pig iron made from Canadian ores, and \$2 per ton on foreign, and a further sum of \$3 per ton on steel ingots. This bounty is reduced 20 per cent. per annum after the 23rd day of April, 1902. It is possible, however, owing to the success attending its efforts, that an extension might be given for several years—until, perhaps, 1907. This aid has been supplemented by the Ontario Government, which has added \$1 per ton for pig iron manufactured in Ontario from Ontario ores. This provision, with other concessions, has led to the establishment of the steel industry upon a substantial basis, and a corresponding prosperity in the provinces wherein located.

Owing, however, to the rapidly increasing demand in consequence of internal development, it will be some time before any perceptible impression is made upon the imports, and a splendid field is afforded in this province for further extension in this direction.

#### LACK OF PROVINCIAL INFORMATION.

It is greatly to be regretted that so little information is forthcoming upon such an important subject

from official sources, and it is to be hoped the government will see its way clear to keep one or two practical men constantly in the field—thus enabling it to keep in closer touch with the development now going on—reporting upon fresh locations and supplying capitalists with reliable information as to our mineral wealth.

The question of re-staking claims demands immediate attention. Gross abuses of the present act exist, and many good locations are tied up, which greatly affects any attempt at development.

#### RETICENCE OF PROSPECTORS.

The best information obtainable on the character of magnetite and hermatite deposits is at present in the possession of private prospectors. Your committee have interviewed a number of these gentlemen, and it would appear that considerable activity is going on at the present time in the interests of wealthy syndicates having in view the immediate establishment of smelters and rolling mills. It is owing to this fact that little can be gleaned from private prospectors. They represent to your committee that being under engagement to the companies referred to they are not at liberty at the present time to give out any information. When this has been presented to their principals, we are led to believe that the league will be placed in possession of information regarding a number of unreported properties.

#### IMPRESSIONS.

In pursuing the investigations called for, we have been particularly impressed with the immense distribution which has taken place by nature of the raw materials throughout this Province, and particularly so of the Island of Vancouver. At a period in our history when the various manufacturing interests of the world have been brought to such a perfected state and increasing at a rapid ratio each year, it would appear to us that the time must be necessarily short before world-wide attention is directed this way. From the manufacturing possibilities presented to us by the great wealth lying dormant in forest and sea, from a harnessing of electricity to the water powers of the West Coast to assist in bringing about a cheaper method of production in man's requirements, much is to be expected. The importance of such factors few appear to realize, and of the future that lies before us how much remains with ourselves in bringing it about in our own time, thus replacing present conditions with those of a happier nature.

#### SUGGESTIONS.

In suggesting to the league methods which we think would prove beneficial and tend toward the immediate development of the iron industry in this Province, your committee have written to the Bureau of Information for the Province of Ontario for all information showing the course pursued by that Government in giving encouragement to iron and steel smelting in that Province. This will be shortly forthcoming, and will be placed before you for consideration and action. We believe the iron and steel trade to be the foundation of all the industries of a country, and there is no reason why, with the advantages possessed by us, full enjoyment should not be taken of the privileges.