

iron ore is said to cost \$8 per ton, laid down at Cleveland, while the Marmora ore, of an equally good quality, can be laid down at the same city for \$4 per ton. The superior quality of this ore has, undoubtedly, been the chief inducement presented to the Pittsburg capitalists engaged in iron manufactories, to invest so largely in the enterprize, it being considered fully equal to the Swedish or Norway iron, and exceedingly valuable for mixing with some inferior American ores; and not only is the quality good, but the yield is large, No. 1 quality of ore producing as much as 85 per cent of iron.

For the richest quality of ore, it will undoubtedly be the most economical plan to take it to the coal; but for the poorer ore, or that which yield perhaps from 40 to 50 per cent. only, it may be found cheaper to roast it in the neighbourhood of the mines, or at Cobourg, especially as the coal can be laid down there as *back* freight. So confident are some of the inhabitants that the ore will yet, and very soon, be roasted near the ore bed, that one individual having a large quantity of wood charcoal on hand, in the vicinity, refuses to sell a bushel of it just now, believing that the company will soon be purchasing it from him at an advanced rate. We trust that wood charcoal may not be found too expensive, as it is believed to make a better iron than does coal; and should peat be found in the vicinity of the ore bed, and Mr. Hodges' process for preparing it be introduced, a charcoal producing a still better quality of iron will thus be made available.

The *Scientific American*, alluding to the treatment of Magnetic Iron Ore, such as is found at Marmora, says:—

"In a recent interview with Mr. A. Thoma, who for a considerable time was a superintendent of iron works in Russia, Germany, and Asia, he described a process invented by him by which the iron can be produced with but little trouble and with a saving of from 50 to 75 per cent of labour and fuel. The invention, if it proves to fulfil what it promises, will be of the greatest advantage to all iron manufacturers in the United States, and parties interested in the business would do well to convince themselves of its merits."

This is a most important discovery, if reliable; and Mr. Thoma, whose address is No. 85 Sixth Street, New York City, is desirous of finding somebody with capital to aid him in bringing the invention into use.

Although the principal proprietors of the Works are American citizens, and the capital American, yet it will be of great benefit to that section of the country in which it is situate, and also to the town of Cobourg, the southern terminus of the Railway,

and the place of shipment for the ore. We wish the enterprize the most unbounded success.

Going back to the iron quarries, we notice that the face of the mountain, upon which the company is at present operating, extends some two or three hundred feet in length, and in height perhaps fifty feet, which height is gradually increasing as the quarrying proceeds: we say *height*, for at present the working is not carried lower than the level of Crow Lake—an extensive sheet of water of which the iron mountain is the south-western boundary. As a test, however, the Engineers had made a boring eighteen feet in depth, the quality improving as the borer descended. It will not, however, be necessary for this generation to descend below the present working level, so extensive is the mountain upon which present operations are conducted—one estimate giving twenty million tons as the probable quantity it contains above that level.

We noticed a hewn stone well built magazine, with metal roof and doors, which the gentlemanly Superintendent informed us then contained 1,000 barrels of blasting gunpowder. Here also, on the side of the iron hill, was a beautiful spring of good water. Passing around and up the mountain perhaps a quarter of a mile from the workings, is the village of Blairtown, so named after the President of the company, a resident of Pittsburgh.

As will be readily understood, the village is "spanking new." Hotels, boarding-houses, stores and private residences are going up rapidly. At a large unfinished Hotel, lathed but not plastered, a very excellent dinner had been prepared, to which the invited guests and other parties sat down. We left the mines at 15.5 P.M., and arrived at the Harwood Landing at 11.15, on our way home, after a very pleasant and interesting trip—the Company's officers doing all in their power to render the occasion as agreeable as possible.

So far we have said nothing respecting the earlier history of the Marmora Iron Works. The property now purchased by the new company, was worked, we believe, some 30 or 40 years since, and some excellent pig and bar iron was produced; but for the want of sufficient capital, and more particularly the necessary skilled management and labour, and the best adapted machinery and appliances, the enterprize was a failure; and after the expenditure of several thousand pounds, the works were closed.

Some years later another company was formed at Belleville, and renewed attempts were made to work the mines. SMYTH'S Canadian Gazetteer, Vol. II, page 248, says:—The following details of their