



ESTABLISHED IN 1880.

Published on the First and Third Fridays of each Month

BY

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER PUBLISHING COMPANY.

(LIMITED)

Room 66 Canada Life Building, King Street West, Toronto.

TELEPHONE 1274.

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SUBSCRIPTION - - \$1.00 per year.

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Room 66 Canada Life Building, King Street West, Toronto.

AS TO PIG IRON IN ONTARIO.

As intimated in the last issue of this journal, on April 24th, a deputation of the Ontario members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association waited upon Sir Oliver Mowat, premier, and other members of the Provincial Government, to request that a bonus of \$2 per ton be given upon the production of pig iron in Ontario, and that this be continued for a term of ten years. The memorial was as follows:—

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association beg to represent to you that the membership of their Association is composed of persons engaged in a great diversity of manufacturing industries carried on in all parts of Canada. Those of them doing business in Ontario are particularly desirous of seeing the Province enjoying the very highest degree of prosperity. They feel that the prosperity of the industries in which the people may be engaged, both agricultural and mechanical, is dependent in a greater or less degree upon the prosperity of all the other industries; that if prosperity attends the efforts of any class or section of the community, it will certainly favorably affect all classes; and they believe that the greater the number of industries in which the people may be employed, the greater the prospects for the general prosperity.

The Association observe with very much pleasure the interest that has been awakened, and the efforts that are being made, looking to the establishment of an iron furnace industry in Ontario. Many of the members of this Association are

workers in iron. They are manufacturers of machines and machinery composed wholly or in part of iron; and whatever may in any manner relate to the iron question affects them. They believe that in all our manufacturing industries it is desirable that where possible the raw materials which they consume should be produced in the country. And this applies specially to pig iron. This article is the foundation of an almost endless variety of articles which enter into the everyday use of the people, or is essential in the production of them. It may be that our manufacturers have not yet undertaken the production of some special forms of iron, such as fine cutlery, surgical instruments, steel rails, etc., but in many other lines, such as agricultural implements, steam engines and boilers, iron-working machinery, wood-working machinery, etc., they have achieved a most gratifying success. But there is a drawback in conducting these manufacturing enterprises, which consists in the fact that not one pound of the iron that enters into the manufacture of these products is made in Ontario, and but a very small proportion in Canada. With practically inexhaustible supplies of rich ore within her borders; and with surroundings eminently calculated to conduce to the success of the enterprise, no pig iron has ever been smelted in this Province. The object of this delegation waiting upon you at this time is to ask that whatever the Ontario Government can do towards encouraging the establishment of a blast furnace industry, be done.

It is well to bear in mind that although for many years the Dominion Government have imposed a duty of \$4 per ton on imported pig iron, and have also bestowed a bonus of \$2 per ton upon such iron as had been made in the country, yet the stimulus has failed to induce capitalists to erect and operate any blast furnaces in Ontario. Since the adoption of this policy sufficient time has elapsed in which to thoroughly investigate the possibilities; and it is well known that such investigation has been made repeatedly; and the conclusion is forced that if Ontario is ever to have a blast furnace industry, it can only be made to materialize under different circumstances than those which now prevail.

And here it may be proper to enquire why the inducements offered by the Dominion Government have not been sufficient to establish a large pig iron industry in Canada—in Ontario; what else may be done to effect it, and who shall do it. We know that Ontario possesses vast stores of valuable ores; that they are easily worked; that some of them are now quite accessible, and that others of them could be cheaply and easily marketed by the expenditure of certain sums of money in extending our railroad facilities; that material for charcoal is abundant and contiguous to the most desirable locations for blast furnaces; that unlimited supplies of limestone are also in close proximity to such locations, and that there is a steady and reliable demand for all the charcoal pig iron that is likely to be produced for a number of years under the most advantageous circumstances. We also know that our existing railroad facilities are such that where it is desired to manufacture coke iron, the fuel can be laid down at furnace quite as cheaply as at many of the most successful furnaces in the United States, and cheaper in some instances.

We are confronted with the fact that the tariff imposes a duty of \$4 per ton on pig iron; that there is a Dominion bounty of \$2 per ton; that ores, fuel and fluxes are accessible and cheap; that there is a demand for iron, and that, not