Mining Operations

IRON

Iron metallurgy in the province of Quebec is now controlled by the Canada Iron Corporation, Ltd., of Montreal, which has purchased the plant and business of the Canada Iron Furnace Company, Ltd., operating at Radnor and of John McDougall & Co., operating at Drummondville.

This same company also operates iron mines and blast furnaces in Nova Scotia, New-Brunswick and Ontario. The blast furnaces of Drummondville and Radnor were in regular operation, bog ore being almost exclusively used.

The results were as follows:

Ore charged 15,493 tons of 2,000 lbs	worth	1	8 60.020
Limestone charged 2,887 "	6.6		1,337
Charcoal	6 6		85.738
Pig iron produced 5,989 gross tons	6.6	••	171,286
corresponding to 6,708 tons of 2,000 lbs.			

Henceforward, the two furnaces of Drummondville and that of Radnor will therefore be operated by the same company. At Drummondville, bog ore and charcoal are exclusively employed, while at Radnor, besides the bog ore, magnetic iron from Ontario and ore imported from the United States are used; consequently, the latter furnace only consumed 4,426 tons of bog ore. Coke is also used in equal proportion to charcoal.

The furnaces use hot air. The ore is taken out by the companies or obtained from the inhabitants or from small contractors. The limestone is extracted in the neighborhood and the charcoal is manufactured on the spot in close kilns, using the wood of the region.

The magnetic sands of the North Shore are still the subject of experiment. Some experimenters are striving to secure direct smelting and reduction by the electric furnace to make steel, while others confine themselves to agglomerating the sands previously concentrated so as to get a very pure ore carrying 68 to 70 p. c. of metallic iron and capable of being treated by blast furnace. Experiments of the first class have been made under the auspices of the Federal Government, which attest the value of the process, but do not seem to demonstrate its industrial utility. In the second class of experiments is the smelting of the ore by the electric furnace by letting it fall between the two electrodes of a furnace in which it is sufficiently heated to melt partly and