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ENCOURAGING IRON MAKING.

THE recently published second report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, for a copy of which we are indebted to Hon. A. S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, contains some excellent information regarding the iron deposits of Ontario, and the facilities we possess for making iron. It is true some of the statements contained in the book show some political coloring not in harmony with the opinions of advocates of the National Policy regarding what should be done by the Government desiring the establishment of an iron industry; and we regret to notice that it contains no suggestion that the Ontario Government should accede to the many requests made to it last winter to offer a bonus or some other substantial inducement for the production of iron in this province. Our opinion is that if such inducement had been offered it would have resulted in the erection of several blast furnaces and perhaps of a steel works also.

As might have been expected the Empire takes the publi-

cation of this report as an occasion to adversely criticize its political enemies, the Ontario Government, and to charge that the non-materialization of iron furnaces in this province is due to the apathy of that Government. It states that while the writer of a certain article in the report expresses the excellent opinion that one of the ways to encourage the iron industry is to publish reliable information concerning it, he forgets the other way demanded, i. e., a provincial bonus. It tells us, very correctly, that under the laws of the Dominion there are large advantages offered those who may go into the iron industry in Ontario; that the tariff on pig iron is \$1 per ton, besides which a bounty of \$2 per ton is offered on the production of pig iron from native ores; and it blames the Ontario Government for not supplementing these inducements as they have so earnestly been requested to do. It also makes reference to articles contained in the report written by gentlemen all well qualified to speak, and who express the opinion that the tariff as it now stands affords satisfactory protection to the industry.

While it is the opinion of many that if Sir Oliver Mowat had seen proper to promise a bonus of \$2 per ton on the production of pig iron in Ontario, the industry would have soon become an assured fact, the opinion is quite as generally entertained that some changes in the tariff would as quickly effect the same result, not only in Ontario, but to the great advantage of both Quebec and Nova Scotia.

As a strictly party paper, supposed to be familiar with the history of the tariff and its effects upon the industries of Canada, the Empire must certainly be aware that although Sir Charles Tupper predicted wonderful things for the iron industry when he was framing the tariff, the manufacture of pig iron is substantially in the same condition now as it was before Sir Charles formulated the iron schedule. It knows that this country abounds in all the materials necessary for the manufacture of pig iron, it knows that there is a large and constantly increasing demand in Canada for pig iron, it knows that the most of this demand can only be met by importations of foreign iron; it knows that the few furnaces we have do not have the capacity to supply the demand, and it knows that if more blast furnaces were erected, unless certain changes were made in the tariff it would be impossible to dispose of all the iron that such furnaces might produce. It also knows, or ought to know, that even if Mr. Mowat had promised a bonus to Ontario furnaces, the products of them could not all be disposed of unless there was a change in the tariff, and that the Ontario Government could have nothing whatever to do with making such a change. Therefore it is the ultraism of partyism to adversely criticize the Ontario Government in the matter, and never utter a word or suggestion to the Dominion Government showing that the establishment of an iron industry in Ontario depended entirely upon a modification of the tariff.

It has frequently been shown in these pages that as now arranged the tariff makes it positively impossible that Canada should have a comprehensive iron industry. Furnaces cannot be kept in blast unless there is a market for their product; and while there is a market for a certain portion of the pig iron they might produce, it is inevitable that they will produce large quantities of a quality of iron for which there will be positively no demand under the existing tariff. The entire product of the furnace must be sold if the enterprise is to be