

cure or maintain a manufacturing supremacy on coal drawn from far distant fields, and the manifest corollary to this conclusion is that there can be no real or lasting inducement to a country to develop its coal supplies in order to foster a manufacturing industry in another country, especially if it can organize such an industry itself. Eventually, as Mr. Greenwell states, competitive manufacturing industries must be carried on in the neighbourhood of the coal supplies, and the surplus production of the latter employed for navigation purposes in fetching the raw materials, and in distributing the manufactures.

The coal resources of the Canadian West are, therefore, destined to become one of the chief factors in the creation of new industrial domination on the Pacific. Such development will be of prodigious advantage to the British Empire. On the other hand we can regard with less complacency the imminence of a competition that within the present century will at any rate make itself felt in the markets of the world, and may eventually be revolutionary in its effects, causing the pendulum of trade to swing in entirely different directions to that of to-day. According to Mr. Thomas T. Read, formerly Professor of Metallurgy at the Imperial Pei-Yang University, at Tientsin, China not only possesses enormous resources in iron, but her coal resources in point of quantity are comparable with those of the United States, while in quality they are in general of higher grade. Thus the amount of lignite is comparatively small, and the proportion of anthracite to bituminous is relatively larger than in the United States. The present production of coal in China is not much greater than that of Canada (about fifteen million tons annually); the iron production is approximately 0.5 lb. per capita per annum as compared with a per capita production in the United States of 600 lb. per annum. But China is awakening. Her people are as imitative, if not quite as adaptable as the Japanese. They are infinitely more industrious, more conscientious, more painstaking. Like the Japanese, the Chinese are now sending students to acquire the knowledge and methods and sciences of Western civilization. In less than a quarter of a century Japan remodelled her entire industrial and social systems. The change from feudalism to modern conditions of life represents in European countries an evolution covering five hundred years. In the first test of strength between East and West, the former was signally victorious. That the equilibrium of trade has been less disturbed than it has by the introduction of the factor of Japanese competition is due to two causes, the natural resources of the country in coal and iron are relatively unimportant, and the labour while cheap is of low efficiency. The development of China will, no doubt, take longer; but when the day arrives when she has mastered the secrets of the West, when she turns to account her natural wealth,—resources that, lying dormant through the centuries, have been thus conserved while those of European nations

have been largely drawn upon,—when she competes for the trade of the world and brings to bear therewith that shrewdness and untiring patient industry and skill that are racial characteristics, then, indeed, will the white race have difficulty in maintaining its own.

THE MINING INDUSTRY AND THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

It is now nearly ten years since the Canadian Mining Institute first urged the Dominion Government to create a Portfolio of Mines in order that this important industry might be adequately represented both in the Cabinet and in Parliament. Some time passed before any steps were taken by the administration then in power to comply with the wishes of the mining interests in this regard; but ultimately a sort of compromise arrangement was made by which the Portfolio was created, although the minister to whom it was entrusted was given a dual office, being minister both of mines and of inland revenue. The administrative duties in connection with the Department of Inland Revenue are, however, relatively light and, while there is, of course, no possible correlation between the functions of work of the two departments, the arrangement proved tolerably satisfactory. The Minister was, at least, able to devote a considerable portion of his time to a consideration of the requirements of the mining industry; he came in direct touch with the mining interests, and he was in a position to represent the views and needs of the industry both in Council and in Parliament. With the change of government last year, however, the Portfolio of Mines was to all intents and purposes abolished. It was at first, as before, tacked on to the Department of Inland Revenue; but the Minister in charge of this department, unlike his predecessor, was entirely ignorant of mining conditions and we are inclined to believe, temperamentally unfitted to undertake the administration of a department that, perhaps, more than any other at the present time, requires firm and, at the same time, sympathetic and tactful guidance. This was apparently recognized, for a few months later a change was made and the Department of Mines was disassociated from that of Inland Revenue, and attached to the Department of the Interior. As a temporary expedient the move was, no doubt, justified; but so far as cabinet representation is concerned the mining industry is now in exactly the same position as it was ten years ago. In fact, it is in a worse position, for the administration of the Department of the Interior to-day is a proportionately weightier matter than it was ten years ago, and no minister, however able, could be expected to assume additional responsibilities, nor should he be saddled with them. Already the Department of the Interior is sub-divided into four or more branches, including immigration, lands, Indian affairs and forestry. It is no uncommon thing for a deputy minister of one of these divisions to wait sev-