

"For the nine months of the current year, it is interesting to note that 9,983 tons were produced in electric furnaces. The steel produced in electric furnaces during the same period was 30,960 tons, as compared with 19,639 tons during the whole of 1916. By September the production of the electric furnaces had risen to 5,000 tons per month, or at the rate of 60,000 tons per annum."

The water powers of British Columbia, which offer natural high heads are at present developed to the extent of 230,000 horse-power. Mr. Conway estimates that there is 750,000 horse-power still undeveloped within reasonable distance of the cities of Vancouver and Victoria, and outside of this area he makes a rough estimate of the water power possibilities which would bring the figures for the Province up to 3,000,000 horse-power.

As to the importation of Chinese pig iron, on which subject the opinion of Mr. Schwab and others will be found quoted in this Bulletin, this argument cannot now be used so successfully against the development of the industry here, as the shortage of ships would prevent bringing it in in any quantity at the present time, and in future the demand for it in Japan, which country has a hold on the largest producing properties in China, would render the supply to other countries more or less uncertain.

Some of the information contained in this bulletin will be found to be duplicated, as there are reports on the same properties by different authorities, and on the other hand it is quite possible that there are iron-ore deposits that are not mentioned at all, or only referred to in the reports prepared by the Mining Committee of the Board of Trade, for, as Mr. Nichol Thompson says in his address, the Government reports are not up-to-date, and one of the chief reasons for the present publication is to show the necessity for some reliable means being taken to determine the value and extent of these deposits. Since Mr. Nichol Thompson delivered his address the British Columbia Legislature has met, and the following announcement was made in the speech from the Throne (7th of February.)

"My Government is securing the services of an expert to advise on the electro-thermic treatment of iron ores, and measures for the encouragement of iron and steel industries will be presented for your consideration."

To give a general idea of the contents of this Bulletin a brief summary