

Iron in British Columbia.

Address delivered by Mr. Nichol Thompson at a luncheon given at the Hotel Vancouver, on Monday, the 14th day of January, 1918, by the Council of the Vancouver Board of Trade to the following members elect to the Dominion House of Commons: Messrs. H. H. Stevens, Vancouver Centre; S. J. Crowe, Burrard; Major Cooper, Vancouver South; H. S. Clements, Comox-Alberni; W. G. McQuarrie, New Westminster City; and F. B. Stacey, New Westminster District.

Mr. President,—

I esteem it a very high honor to be asked to present the Board's memorandum on the importance of the establishment of blast furnaces and the making of pig iron from our native ores to the members of Parliament elect. This is the first time in my experience, extending over twenty-five years that the business men of the city represented by the Board of Trade and the Members of Parliament as representatives of the people, have met in a business way to discuss and exchange views on the best means to be taken to develop the resources of the Province for the general good. It is a good omen, and I trust marks an epoch in the history of our country, and is an earnest that the men whom we have recently elected and who may be elected in the future, are truly representatives of the people, and not merely hired delegates of any political party.

Speaking of the memorandum which has been so ably prepared by the Secretary and his staff, it might be described as a comprehensive compilation of the varied opinions of Government officials, members of the Dominion Geological Staff and abstracts from the annual report of the Minister of Mines, as compiled by the Provincial Mineralogist, and reports of the Mining Committee of the Board of Trade, none of which, I regret to say, are of very much use to anyone desirous of investing capital in the iron and steel industry in our Province. Take the latest production as a sample, issued by the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines, Ottawa, and entitled: "Iron Ore Occurrences in Canada," in two volumes, compiled by E. Lindeman, M. E., and D. L. Bolton, M.A.B.Sc., with an introductory by A. H. A. Robinson,