

It may be explained that the operations of this company, involving the working of bog and lake iron ores, and the making of wood for charcoal, extend over a considerable territory. The labor is largely drawn from the farming class, and is therefore naturally of a more or less intermittent nature, which accounts somewhat for the large number of men employed.

A portion of the output of the furnace is used for the manufacture of the highest class of railway car wheels, at the company's auxiliary works at Lachine, Que., where a further staff of about 150 men are employed, and in addition it may be said that all the railway companies in Canada are now using the Canada Iron Furnace Co's metal as the basis of mixtures for standard car wheels. It will be gratifying to Canadians to know that the high quality of this special metal, as demonstrated by its great strength and splendid chilling qualities, has so far attracted the attention of foreign engineers that the company has been enabled to open up a foreign trade during the past year, and it is now shipping iron regularly into the Pittsburgh market, where the metal is used for very special qualities of work. In addition to this, important shipments have recently been made from Radnor Forges to the European market. While this trade is not a large one as yet, it proves that the quality of the iron made in Canada is unsurpassed, and is another reason why we should carefully build up our national industry.

Drummondville.

The campaign was short, but the output will be about the same as 1894. The whole of the production of this furnace is used in the manufacture of car wheels at the company's works in Montreal. The campaign is always more or less regulated by the requirements of the car wheel department.

Pictou Charcoal Iron Co., Bridgeville, N.S.

The returns of output have not yet been filed, but a very notable point in connection with the operations of this company is that it is just on the point of installing a steel converting plant, and will use the largest portion of the output in that way, finishing it into the highest quality of agricultural implement steel for the home market. This is a striking illustration of the effect of the Dominion Act of 1894, which provided for the payment of a bounty of \$2 per ton on all steel billets manufactured in Canada from Canadian pig iron.

The Hamilton Iron and Steel Co.

The new furnace with a capacity of 100 tons per day goes into blast immediately. At the start a large proportion of this company's ore will be the product of American mines, but they look to the Act of the Legislature of Ontario, Session 1894, (which provided for the payment of \$1.00 per ton on the pig metal product of iron ore, raised or smelted in the Province of Ontario) to bring about an almost immediate development of the mines of the Province. In the meantime the Hamilton Iron and Steel Co. will naturally have to waive claim to the Dominion bounty of \$2.00 per ton, so that it is entirely in their interest to push forward the exploration and development of Ontario mines, and thus give the real benefit of the industry to Canadian labor. Under present circumstances, Ontario not possessing coal mines, and the question of the economical transportation and handling of Lower Province coal, being as yet unsolved, the Hamilton Iron and Steel Co. will have to use American fuel, which unfortunately means that one-half of the labor benefit of the industry will go to a rival market. Under these circumstances the Dominion Government will probably restrict the Federal bounty to a sum proportionate to the amount of Canadian labor employed in the industry; this as a protection to the coal miners and charcoal burners of the other Provinces.

REMARKS.

The time is perhaps very opportune to draw the attention of the leaders of the contending political parties of this country to the fact that the interests of the industrial enterprises of Canada should be as sacred to the one party as to the other. The workmen employed in the respective enterprises are just as deeply interested in the ultimate success of the operations as the capitalists who have risked, and must continue to risk their money in establishing the work.

The iron industry has perhaps greater claims to the good-will and support of the statesmen and people of Canada than perhaps any other of the great industries of the country, because the raw material used is wholly Canadian, the product of Canadian labor. It is eminently an industry for which nature has fitted the country, and it is therefore well that it should be encouraged and developed, because it will afford a greater amount of employment to labor for the money invested than any other industry that the country is fitted to sustain.

The progress made should also now be sufficient to prove to capitalists and men of affairs generally, that the enterprise of iron making in Canada can be made a very decided success, affording a splendid field for safe investment. It is no longer in an experimental stage, and if many of the investors, who are now putting their money into the silver mines of the west, not only of their own country, but of the adjoining republic, would turn their attention to the production of the most useful of all metals, iron, right here at home, and for the home market, building up every kindred provincial interest, the future of this Province and of Canada would be most promising. What is wanted now is sufficient capital invested in the various enterprises to enable the iron masters to keep abreast of the times in the matter of modern appliances and methods. Nature provides all the material, it remains for men to utilize them by the best and most economical methods.

The industry has naturally suffered from uncertainty with regard to the tariff question. Barred out, as Canadian iron manufacturers are, from the American market, by the customs tariff of that country, and handicapped as all iron industries are in infancy when a very heavy initial expenditure has to be made in construction of plant, prospecting, securing and developing of mines, wood lands, quarries, shipping docks, etc., it is imperative that the Government of the country should give stability to the protective tariff, and thus give confidence to capitalists. Statistics prove that the present protection and bounty granted by the Government of Canada, if well maintained, will result in the development of the Canadian iron industry, but the history of the work done in the United States, as well as the past history of England, proves that the encouragement granted is not by any means too much for the earlier years of the work. This has been well recognized by Sir Oliver Mowat, who, as the head of the Liberal Government in Ontario, recently carried through an Act by which his Government grants a special Provincial bonus of \$1.00 per ton for all pig-iron made in that Province, the product of Ontario ores.

Speaking of the treatment extended to the iron industry by both political parties in this country, neither are quite free from criticism. Special attention is drawn to the fact that the Order-in-Council passed at Ottawa, Nov. 2nd, 1894, entitled, "Re drawbacks on imported goods used in Canadian manufactured articles, and exported," still remains in force, despite the protests and explanations of numerous Canadian manufacturers, who are debarred from doing business with the western Canadian agricultural implement makers on account of this order. The order in question, as is well known, was passed with a view of encouraging the exportation of agricultural implements to foreign markets, and provided for a rebate of duty on the material used in machines so exported. It was so framed, however, that the effect has been to compel the Canadian agricultural implement makers to purchase foreign material before

they can avail themselves of the drawback. The result has been considerable loss of trade to the manufacturers of Canadian pig-iron. To be consistent with their policy of encouraging the native industry, the Federal Government must so frame the order in question as to leave the agricultural implement maker free, if he so chooses, to use Canadian material. So much for the present Government's consistency.

On the other hand, the leaders of the Liberal party evidently do not appreciate the iron trade as they should, and do not understand it in a broad sense. They have shown this by the repeated attacks that the leaders, notably the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, have made upon the pig-iron industry of Canada. In several of his speeches Mr. Laurier has stated that the Canadian iron furnacemen enjoy a protection, aside from the bounty, (which all admit was granted for the special purpose of defraying the work of development in mines, forests, and at the furnace) equivalent to an ad valorem duty of from 40 to 60 per cent. To prove his argument he takes the selling price of Southern American coke iron (the very lowest and poorest quality made in the United States) at \$6 per ton at the furnace, and to this he adds a freight of \$4.00 per ton, so as to arrive at what he terms the "tax" on the Toronto buyer. This is wholly incorrect inasmuch as the lowest price at which Southern iron can be bought today is say \$10.25 per gross ton, and the freight to Toronto from Tennessee or Alabama is \$4.60, making the cost in bond at Toronto, \$14.85, upon which a specific duty of \$4.00 per net ton would be equivalent to an ad valorem duty of less than 30 per cent.; but Mr. Laurier entirely overlooks the fact that there is iron and iron, and that to arrive at a fair average of the duty he will have to take into account the fact that Canadian founders use not only Southern coke iron, but also higher priced Northern coke iron; as well as Scotch coke and American charcoal pig-iron. If our politicians, before making such statements, would simply refer to the official statistics on record at Ottawa, say for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1895, they would find that the importations of pig-iron for the last fiscal year were 33,944 net tons, of which the entered invoice value was \$370,574.00. Figured out at the price per standard ton of 2,240 lbs., this means a value at the furnace of \$12.13, to which add an average freight rate of \$4.00 per ton for delivery to any point in Canada, i.e., from the furnace in Scotland or the United States to point of destination, and it brings the average cost per ton to \$16.13. The specific duty on this at \$4.00 per net ton is equivalent to an ad valorem protection of just about 27 1/4 per cent. As a matter of fact the present figures, taking into account the high class charcoal iron used in this country, as well as the lower grades of Southern coke, will aggregate fully \$18.00 per ton, which would mean a protection equivalent to 25 per cent. ad valorem on the average freight, etc., for delivery at any point in the Dominion.

SPECIFIC AS AGAINST AD VALOREM DUTY.

As far as pig-iron is concerned, a specific duty is the only fair and sensible basis. In the first place it is the simplest to apply, and does away with possibility of fraud. It would simply be impossible for an appraiser, expert or not, to determine whether a pig-iron was worth \$12.00 per ton or \$25.00, so that there would, as far as high grade iron is concerned, be a wide opening for entering at fraudulent figures, if an ad valorem duty was applied. Then again, an ad valorem duty would mean a tendency to lower the grade of iron imported, and therefore the class of work produced in this country.

In the case of food, clothes, etc., the argument against specific duties, that the poor man suffers, as he pays an equal tax on his necessity to that paid by the millionaire on his luxury, may hold, but this does not apply to iron, where the quality of pig-iron to be used is determined not by the class of people the finished article is to be sold to, but by the purposes to which it is intended to apply it, and a costlier iron, for example, goes into the poor man's stove than into the rich man's furnace. The highest and most expensive grades of iron are used for the production of articles on which human life depends, such, for example, as railway car wheels, structural work for bridges, buildings, etc. Any one will recognize that it is in the interest of all that the best of metal should be used, and nothing done to operate towards bringing into use poor material.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.

It is worthy of special note that the Legislature of the Province of Quebec evidenced, during the last session, a desire to encourage the iron industry in this Province, by passing the Hon. E. J. Flynn's Assembly Bill No. 21, entitled, "An Act respecting colonization of certain parts of this Province, and for promoting the mining industry therein." By this Act the C. I. F. Co. are created a Colonization Society, and 30,000 acres of wood lands are set aside or reserved for the purposes of colonization by the employees of the company. The industry is thus protected against speculators in wood lands, and assured of a constant supply of fuel. The Act is an eminently wise one, and great credit is due to the Hon. Mr. Flynn, Commissioner of Crown Lands, for this fresh evidence of good will towards the mining industry of the Province. It will be well for the Provincial Government to grant similar privileges to any furnace company starting work in the Province of Quebec, for while the Act does not go so far in the matter of encouragement as did the Act of the Ontario Legislature, yet it shows good will on the part of our local legislators. It will be well for the people of Canada generally to give this whole question of the development of the iron industry more careful thought, consideration and sympathy.

We have "wars and rumors of wars" these days. Is it not well to feel that we are self-sustaining in this much abused iron trade? (Applause.)

Copper and Pyrites.

MR. JOHN BLUE—The copper and pyrites ores mined in the Province of Quebec during 1895, amounted to 37,920 tons of 2,240 lbs. Of this quantity there was exported to different points in the

	Tons.
United States.....	23,120
Treated in the Province.....	8,800
And put into stock pile.....	6,000
A total of.....	37,920

About 300 men are engaged daily in the mining of these ores.

All of this ore was mined in the Township of Ascot, Sherbrooke County.

Practically none of the ores of this district can be treated for copper contents alone; to make the mining of them a profitable enterprise it is necessary to utilize all the valuable constituents, sulphur, copper, silver and gold, and for this reason the mining of the ores depends largely on the state of the market for sulphuric acid in the United States, as most of it is exported there to be first treated for acid making purposes.

The acid business in the States has been in a very depressed state during the year and consequently the mining of pyrites shows a falling off in quantity.

The most pleasing feature in the business is the increased consumption of pyrites in Canada for making sulphuric acid, a sure test of the healthy condition of business in the Dominion.

Mr. Drummond, in his valuable paper on iron, states that the increased consumption of pig iron in any country is a sure indication of healthy business' growth and