

metric tons, an industry of which that nation may well be proud. The utilization of the hard and soft woods of our forests, at present waste material, would be of incalculable benefit to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and above all to the agriculturalists of these provinces.

Next to the farming class the Railways of Canada would perhaps be the greatest gainers by the establishment of an iron industry. In the case of the Government Railway, the Intercolonial, it is safe to say that the combined operations of the Londonderry Iron Co., the New Glasgow Iron, Coal & Railway Co., and the Nova Scotia Steel & Forge Co., furnish one-fifth of all the freight business of the railway in question.

The Piles Branch of the Canadian Pacific Ry., on which the works of the Canada Iron Furnace Co. are located, is perhaps the best paying piece of line possessed by that great Trans-Continental road, and this is very largely due to the fact that every pound of raw material inwards to the furnace and finished product outwards to the market contributes to the revenue of the Railway Co.

It is quite plain that any policy that would serve to cripple these iron industries *will be severely felt* by the Railways.

*Perhaps the greatest difficulty* that has stood in the way of the advancement of the Canadian Iron Industry up to the present time, has been the uncertainty of the tariff, and political cries of "Commercial Union," "Unrestricted Reciprocity," "Free Trade" and "Revenue Tariff" have served to frighten capitalists, so that Canadian iron masters have found it very difficult to obtain investors for the carrying forward of the work on a proper basis. When the difficulties are all considered it is remarkable that the Industry has reached even its present stage.

The United States at the present time presents an example of what uncertainty regarding tariff changes will do. During the past six months business has been completely demoralized in the iron trade of the Republic by the fear of a possible change in the duties. This in face of the fact that both parties in Congress are known to be more or less protectionist in theory and practice, the difference being only one of degree, whereas in Canada politicians are most extreme in their views, and the battle against protection to native industries has been waged in and