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Lencers will not be considered upless made of

Specification to be seen specification to be seen specification to be considered upless made on Ottawa.

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An jaccepted bank cheque, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works. 100 ALTO * rea CENT OF AMOUNT OF TENDER, must accompany each tender. This cheque will be forfested if the patty decline the centract or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest of any tender.

By order,

E. F. E. Roy,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works, and August, 1932

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MINING.

THE COAL FIELDS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA. III.

> (Rights of Translation Strictly Reserved) SHIPBUILDING.*

Iron and sleel have so completely superseded the use of wood in shipbuilding that the demand for wooden vessels in Canada, as elsewhere, is now extremely reduced. In consequence, the wooden shipbuilding industries of Nova Scotis, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have almost cled away, or are practically confined to the small class of vessels used in the pilot or fishing service of Lower Canada; and it does not seem probable these can ever be revived, as the root of decay does not appear to exist, as some critics maintain, in the fiscal policy of the present government, but in the world-wide transition of constructive material. In proper time, however, from shipbuilding must become a profitable industry, for in Nova Scotia, at least, a remarkable resemblance between the districts of the Tyne and Wear and the county of Pictou exists. The Province, especially in that locality, is fully supplied with high-class iron ores, suitable for steel, or pigs, very fine coal, and every facility for blast furnaces, and rolling mills, quite irrespective of the geographical position of its fine harbors, which practically fulfil the same economic conditions towards Canada and her industries as do the minerals and ports of the North of England towards British industries and neighboring foreign markets. The steel and pig iron industries now in full swing, supported entirely by native capital, indicate that capital with prudent enterprise are alone needed to make the iron ships of Capital with prudent enterprise are alone needed to make the iron snips of Nova Scotia almost as eagerly sought after in the present market as her wooden vossels formerly were. The reasons why iron shipbuilding in Canada must develop are too complex for complete explanation here, but that the general basis of this, as of every other native industry, is wheat, the production or non-production of which implies a sliding-scale of national prosperity. Shipbuilders should not overlook Canada at this stage of hearing and agricultural development. of her industrial and agricultural development. Agriculture as the base of all things has at last passed through a series of transitions which have carried the great wheat-producing and cattle-raising districts thousands of miles further west, where it is now carried on by an ever-increasing number of new comers; the great strain upon the public of constructing enormous railways is now relaxing; and with these two important changes is allied the marvellously improved crops. The result has been that the innumerable mortgages which have oppressed the country, especially the farming communities, for so many years, have been lifted or lightened; all kinds of industries have advanced, and, principally owing to the capital released from mortgage investments, vast sums of money have been recently thrown idle. The re-investment of this money is now an absorbing topic. The most favorite investment in Canada for something like ten years past has been bank stocks, but in the natural course of things these choice investments are limited; in fact all the bank stocks are now securely held for dividend purposes by fortunate possessors. Next come mortgages; these, as observed, are diminishing, owing to the improved commercial condition of the whole country, and the next species of investment remains to be adopted. From a cycful review of the situation, and a critical intercourse with all the most eminent political or commercial authorities of Canada, I am not at all confident that minerals or rails will be the new choice of investment, for the valuable mineral is already held for epeculative purposes, saleable only at figures which would result in over-capitalisation, and the country has had quite enough of railroads for some time to come; besides, supply at present practically equals demand in both cases. But as fir as shipping is concerned, none of these circumstances prevail to the same degree. Ever-broadening markets, increased production of wheat, flour, and breadstuffs, with choice cattle exports, promise an entirely new field for speculation, especially as these have even now begun to react very favorably on the native industries. Take the coal trade as an example of this. In 1884, 230,000 tons of coal from all quarters were quits sufficient to satisfy the demands of Montreal; but in 1891, 562,000 were delivered in the St. Lawrence from the Nova Scotis mines. It took about 300 trips of the colliers to carry this quantity, and cost

from 12 to 14 cents per minute for transportation and sundry charges during the seven months of open water. The success of the Pacific liners of the Canadian Pacific Railway may also be mentioned as an index of improved shipping prospects in Canada. These vessels have practically driven their American rivals off the ocean in the particular branches of Japanese trade patronised by the Stars and Stripes, and the proposed swift line to Australasia will mark another stage in the growth of British America's mercantile marine, especially as this new line will provide a route superior for speed and economy to those of Sucz, Panama, or New York and San Francisco. The Canadian Government very properly takes an active interest in everything in any way associated with this industry, and a Department of Marine has been established, which administers the coastwise and deep-sea traffic in an exceptional manner. In brief, steel or iron shipbnithing is to be the next great industrial feature of the progress of the Dominion of Canada and the intimate relation of such to the great Inter-Atlantic Coal Regions of peninsularic Nove Scotia and insular Cape Breton affords another uncontro vertible proof of the incredible prosperity which awaits the coal fields of British North America.

*Communicated by C. Ochiltree Macdonald to London "Fair Play."

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