

## CONSUMPTION OF IRON PYRITES AND OTHER MINERALS.

The consumption of iron pyrites for making sulphuric acid is rapidly increasing in the United States. In 1886 112,000 tons were consumed. The duty of 75c per ton is a heavy tax on this article, as pyrites is only worth about \$4.50 per ton in New York, but if there were no duty a large trade would be done, as we have many deposits of pyrites suitable for this purpose. Large quantities of copper ore would be shipped to the States were it not for the duty. In the Nipissing and Algoma districts new and important discoveries of copper have lately been made; but here again the tariff bars the way. The United States duty on lead ore is prohibitory, and there is little encouragement to develop our galena veins, although, no doubt, we have abundance of this useful mineral, and the same remark applies to several other minerals, notably to the salt industry, which suffers greatly through restriction.

Few people are aware of the extent and importance of our mining districts. There are at least sixteen constituencies in Ontario which are emphatically mining districts. Commence at Peterborough and go east through the counties of Hastings, Addington, Frontenac, Renfrew, Leeds, Grenville, Lanark and Carleton, or commence with Victoria and go north through the districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound and Nipissing, and for hundreds of miles through the great district of Algoma you are still in a mining country, while in the Province of Quebec many counties are fully as rich. No country in the world possesses such mineral wealth as Ontario, where so little is done to develop it.

The mining districts of Michigan and Minnesota are much smaller than ours, yet from those States the market value of iron ore mined in 1887 was about \$24,000,000, of which \$10,000,000 was paid in freight and probably as much in labour, while from a larger area of mining territory we in Canada produced hardly anything.

I am a strong Protectionist, but I do not carry the idea of Protection so far as to advocate a tariff wall between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec or between the States of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

If it is profitable for Ohio to trade freely with Pennsylvania or New York, why should it not be just as profitable that Ontario and Quebec should trade freely with those States?