

naces and steel plants in Canada without a certainty that the circumstances under which it was invested would not be unfavorably changed, at least for a time sufficiently long to give a guarantee of the remuneration to which it was entitled. If, then, a bonus were promised on the production of pig iron, it should be accompanied with a guarantee that it would be continued for a definite term of years. A consensus of opinion showed that if the Ontario Government deemed it wise to aid in the establishment of the industry, the bonus should be \$2 per ton upon the production of pig iron, and that it should be continued for the term of at least ten years."

The Secretary went on to state that, so far as he was aware, no member of the delegation present was interested in any blast furnace industry, but they were all hopeful for the establishment of such, which would provide pig iron for them. Neither were they speaking in behalf of any particular part of the province. They merely asked that if a bonus were granted it should be upon the production, no matter in what part of the province it might take place.

In reply to an enquiry from Hon. Mr. Hardy, the Secretary stated that the Association had reliable information that all the varieties of ore necessary for the manufacture of pig iron for all purposes were to be found in Ontario. There was plenty of suitable wood for making charcoal; and if coke were desired it could easily be obtained from the usual sources. We think, he said, that an inducement of \$2 per ton for ten years would be adequate to establish this industry; and if no iron was produced no bonus would be paid.

Mr. R. W. Elliot observed that this question was considered to be one of the most important that the Association had ever presented to the Government. The deputation did not ask the Government to provide capital for those who might desire to engage in the smelting industry. On the contrary they thought it would be rather unwise to advance any capital by way of bonus to start the manufacture of iron. Before the bonus asked for could be paid the capital would have to be invested and the work done. Taking the term of ten years spoken of in the memorial, he did not think the expenditure on the average would exceed more than \$90,000 to \$100,000 a year. The question was whether this would really prove a loss to the province. From an examination of the trade and navigation returns it would appear that on two or three elementary forms of iron the province was paying to other provinces or to foreign countries over \$2,000,000 a year, and some even estimated the amount at \$2,500,000. Yet all these forms could be made in the province and in such quantity as to enable its manufacturers to compete in foreign markets. When they considered they could go into a country absolutely devoid of aught but mineral resources and find that a population could be prosperously maintained there, which would become a source of strength to the people residing on farm lands, they could begin to realize what the real value of mining development would be. There was in Ontario what was known as "the disputed territory." In that district he felt sure there were ores of all the valuable metals in great abundance; but in the basin of James' Bay coal was also to be found. Some might probably think that by granting aid for the manufacture of iron they were interfering with the National Policy. He could conceive, however, that there might be a National Policy for the Dominion and an Ontario policy for the province. The time had arrived when this question required the serious consideration of the Government, and he hoped they would see their way clear to granting the necessary bonus. The time was opportune, because in the iron-producing countries of Great Britain,

Belgium and the United States low prices prevailed. There was a better chance therefore of attracting to this country where they would be sure to meet encouragement those who had technical skill and experience in iron producing. He saw no reason why, with the encouragement of a bonus, Ontario should not enter upon an era of prosperous iron production.

Mr. Thomas Cowan, of Galt, agreed with the view which had been expressed. The whole province would only too gladly welcome a policy which would tend to the development of Ontario's untold mineral wealth. Canadian manufacturers would be much better pleased if they could get their iron in Ontario instead of having to import it from Great Britain, the United States or elsewhere. It was admitted by all writers on political economy that the production of iron by a nation tended to increase its wealth. He need not point to the great efforts made in Great Britain in the past to develop her mineral resources. That policy enabled her to control the situation and to command the commerce of the world, whilst the sails of her ships whitened every sea. It was generally conceded that the nation which produced the most iron was the most wealthy and most solidly prosperous.

Mr. W. K. McNaught thought it would be very much in the interest of Ontario that a bonus should be given. As had been pointed out, such encouragement to the smelting of iron would not only help the manufacturers, but would give employment to a large amount of unskilled labor. He quite agreed with the idea that instead of furnishing capital to any iron producer, a bonus ought to be given, which should be earned before it was paid. The bonus should be guaranteed for a number of years, otherwise capitalists would be chary of investing their money in blast furnaces.

Sir Oliver Mowat, before the deputation withdrew, said: "We are alive to the importance of developing the iron industry, and it is receiving our very earnest attention."

Those whose memory carries them back to the events of 1893—only nine years ago, will remember that the opinion of manufacturers and business men generally, and the Association in particular, was that an Ontario iron industry should be established, and none were more zealous in advocating and working for such an event than the gentlemen who waited upon Sir Oliver Mowat on the occasion alluded to. There were several cities in Ontario which sought to have blast furnaces, and the fact that the Association memorialized Premier Mowat without advocating the claims of any one place, but were working in the interest of the entire province, is due the success which very soon thereafter eventuated; and the remarks of the speakers, particularly those of Mr. Elliot, were indeed a remarkable prophecy of what was so soon to occur. In 1893 no iron was made in Ontario—in 1901 Ontario was making heavy shipments of steel plates direct via our magnificent waterways to Europe; and we have the assurance that before the expiration of the current year Ontario steel works will be turning out large quantities of as excellent rails as were ever laid in the construction of a railroad. In fact hundreds of tons of these rails will be in use before the ripening of crops next fall. Premier Ross, in his budget speech in the Ontario Legislature on January 22, only a few days ago, verifying the prophecies of Mr. Elliot, and the other speakers of the Association deputation of 1893, said that in 1895 there was not a pound of iron ore raised or smelted in Ontario; in 1896 the first blast furnace was established; in 1900, 90,302 tons, and in 1901, 300,000 tons of iron ore were smelted in three blast furnaces in this province.

All intelligent observers are agreed that the last decade of the last century witnessed more important advances in the