

ore alone was used. This was subject to a reduction of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by the British preference, which did not go into effect until sometime afterward, and this preference was subsequently increased to 25 per cent., and then to $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., bringing down the minimum tariff protection to \$1.67 per ton. The reduction of course applied to other lines of industry as well, but there was this difference. The maximum tariff protection on pig iron had been reduced by $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. with the understanding that increased bounties should offset the reduction, but the bounties decreased ten per cent. per annum at the same time that the tariff protection was being also reduced. In some lines of manufacture the government carefully increased the general tariff in order to partially offset the preferential rate, but the opposite course was pursued regarding the iron industry. The preference was seemingly not taken into consideration when the government fixed the duty at \$2.50 per ton, which was a reduction on what they themselves designed to be the minimum duty they intended to impose. Since 1897 the bounty has gradually been reduced, and the position to-day is that Canadian makers only enjoy a minimum tariff of \$1.67 per ton, and a bounty of \$1.65 per ton, or a total encouragement of \$3.32 per ton, as against \$6 per ton before the tariff revision of 1897, and \$5.50 per ton immediately after the tariff revision. Unless the bounties are revised and extended this will be further reduced on the thirtieth of next June, the expiration of the current fiscal year. It must be plain to anyone who looks into the question that it is impossible for the Canadian furnaces to go ahead to a successful development on the present rate of duty and bounty. These should be revised and made to approximate more closely to the encouragement given in 1897 before the British preference went into effect, and then the duties should be logically arranged on the higher finished articles so as to give an equivalent protection to labor employed all along the line, and ensure a home market for the output of Canadian blast furnaces.

We do not wish to be understood as advocating a reduction in the rate of the British preference. We are in favor of continuing to give British products a preference over foreign products, but the general tariff rate should be so increased that when this preference is granted the minimum encouragement to Canadian industry will be adequate.

The iron industry employs more labor in proportion to the value of the product than any other industrial enterprise. It is as much a natural industry, taking its wealth from the ground, as agriculture, but owing to the great cost of the plant and the difficulty in finding suitable ores during the early stages of development, it cannot get a foothold without special encouragement.

SHOULD CANADA PROMOTE A TIN PLATE INDUSTRY?

One of the most remarkable features of the investigations of the Tariff Commission in their peregrinations throughout the country was the appearance in all places where investigations and hearing were held of manu-

facturers who, while asking that adequate tariff protection be guaranteed to their own particular industries, in the strongest terms possible demanded that nothing whatever be done in the way of encouragement to the manufacture of tin plates in Canada. A great diversity of opinion was developed among manufacturers as to the amount of duty that should be placed upon particular lines of merchandise, depending always upon whether the article under discussion was the raw material or finished product of the manufacturer, but in all instances where tin plate was the subject of discussion, there was unanimity of opinion that that article should remain in the free list.

Coincident with these discussions a brochure appeared in which the tin plate question was very fully discussed, from the standpoint of those who objected to any duty being imposed upon the article; and it was to be noticed that the views of the manufacturers who addressed the Commission coincided very closely with the arguments and language of the pamphlet, which they had evidently studied.

The gist of the objections to the establishment of a tin plate industry in Canada by adequate tariff protection was summarized in the pamphlet as follows. It says:

"There are probably used in Canada to-day every known grade and character of the tin plate mill product that is being produced either in the mills of England or the United States. The users of this class of materials are as far advanced as are those of any other country in the art of turning out such articles as cans for vegetables, fruits, paints, tomatoes, oysters, lard, lobsters and fish of all kinds; and tins and cans of the numerous descriptions used by various manufacturers for putting up preparatory articles; building materials, roofing material such as metal shingles, metal ceilings, metal sidings, etc.; dairy supplies of all kinds used by farmers; household tinware of all kinds and descriptions, and a thousand and one articles which are in daily use in every home in the Dominion. * * * *

"In the starting of a tin mill * * * there must follow the production of charcoal plates of a high finish and in a quality that will stand the most severe tests in stamping and drawing dies.

"There must also be produced what is known as 'dairy sheets,' running in sizes as high as 48 inches in width by 96 inches in length, in the very heavy gauges, and of a quality the very best, suitable for making dairy utensils.

"Then comes the taggers tin in both common and charcoal quality, 36 and 38 gauges, which is more difficult to make entirely satisfactory on account of the thinness of the sheets.

"Lead coated roofing plates are also required, as are also black sheets of special finish.

"It is evident that a single plant with limited capacity could not hope to enter the field with more than a chance of securing a share of the trade in the common grades of coke tin plates.

"So far as producing many of the lines of thin black sheets is concerned, which are now used in Canada, requiring special formulas in order to suit the work for which they are required, it is altogether out of the question, because this is an industry which has only recently been developed in Great Britain, and there are not more than two or three mills at the present time whose product can be thoroughly relied upon.

"When the population in Canada reaches a point