

that in a very peculiar degree the pig iron industry is one closely identified with the interests of the farmers.

The coke furnaces of Nova Scotia draw a large proportion of their employees at mines and furnaces from the farming class. In many instances the farmers take work in the mines, while other members of their families look after their agricultural interests. The charcoal iron furnace especially may well be classed as a farmers' industry. For example, in the case of the Canada Iron Furnace Co. already cited, out of a staff of 850 men employed at the present time, 700 at least of the employees are farmers or habitants, who work for the Company during the winter months and in their slack seasons, between seed time and harvest. These men find that the arduous work of clearing their land is no longer unprofitable, as it has been in the past, but that on the contrary they are now able to derive a very good living from the earliest days of settlement by supplying wood to the charcoal kilns.

Another ready source of employment is the raising of ore on portions of their own and neighboring lands, which would otherwise be wholly unproductive.

The successful re-establishment of the Charcoal Iron Industry at Radnor Forges has greatly improved the condition of the farmers of the historical Three Rivers district. They now find steady and profitable employment on their own land at all seasons, a steady market for their farm products, and ample work for their horses.

During the present season the Canada Iron Furnace Co. are using in their camps and ore fields upward of 500 horses, 80 per cent. of which are the property of the farmers.

This close identity of interest between the farmer and the manufacturer is also characteristic of the work done at Drummondville, in the Province of Quebec, and will no doubt prove equally true with regard to the operations of the Pictou Charcoal Iron Co. at Bridgeville, N. S.

It will be largely in the interest of the farmers of Ontario and Quebec if the Charcoal Iron Industry is allowed to grow and prosper. What has been possible in the case of Sweden is equally possible for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, where the raw material and the market lie side by side. In 1890 Sweden had in blast 154 charcoal iron furnaces producing 456,102