



REFLECTIONS

BY STAFF WRITERS

THE production of iron and steel in Canada is proceeding apace. At Sydney, Sault Ste Marie, Hamilton and one or two other places, the industry is already of considerable importance. Yet Canada is importing

NEW ERA IN IRON

vast quantities of iron and steel, showing that the demand is much greater than the supply. Nevertheless there are those who predict that before many years Canada will be an exporter of iron.

The value of iron ore deposits is well illustrated by the story of the iron mines sold by Mr. J. J. Hill to the Steel Trust. These are situated near the south shore of Lake Superior and are among the most valuable in the United States. Under the deal which Mr. Hill made with the Trust, he gets a royalty on all ore taken out. It is estimated that this royalty will average seventeen million dollars a year for fifty years at least, which will make a tidy profit for Mr. Hill and his associates.

New deposits are being opened up in Canada, and one of those recently uncovered is said to be equal in value to those which Mr. Hill acquired. This Moose Mountain range is described elsewhere in this issue. It is only a short distance from the Georgian Bay and consequently not far by rail from Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal. Perhaps this winter, certainly by next spring, this ore will be coming forward by the train-load. Machinery is being installed at Key Inlet, the new Canadian Northern harbour on Georgian Bay, to handle 800 tons of ore an hour. By this means alone, several train-loads a day could be sent away by the lake route. In addition several train-loads a day could be handled over the new Canadian Northern line which in a few weeks will be completed between these mines and Toronto.

This increase in the supply of available iron ore means much for the country. Iron mines mean more than gold or silver mines because of their permanency, because of the greater amount of labour required in the preparing of the ore for market, and because of the consequent growth of allied industries. If the supply of coal does not become troublesome, Ontario will in another five years be an iron-producing district of considerable importance. Nova Scotia must look to her laurels, even though she possesses an unlimited supply of coal and splendid shipping facilities.

IF the people could be sure that Mr. Borden is in favour of all the reforms which he advocates and that all his followers would support him in carrying these reforms into effect, there can be no doubt that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's term of power would be terminated at an early date. The people will not believe Mr. Borden; they will listen with unconvinced minds. They will go away feeling that they have heard a strong politician speak, but they will put little faith in his promises.

This is not to say that Mr. Borden's reputation for truthfulness is not of the first order. In this respect, the public has had little if any complaint to make of the Leader of the Opposition. This peculiar situation is simply the result of a lack of confidence in political leaders, which is characteristic of the North American continent. Did not the Liberal Opposition, between 1891 and 1896, advocate many reforms which they have since

abandoned? Did not the Conservatives have an opportunity, in the same period, of effecting some of these reforms, which their leader now advocates? Will any person point out a political leader of recent times who was either able or willing to redeem all his pre-election promises?

If Mr. Borden were made premier to-morrow, the people have no guarantee that he could effect the reforms which he advocates. There is no reason to believe that he could carry even the majority of his own party for government operation of telephone and telegraph lines, for civil service reform, or for managing the government railways by an independent commission. The first of these reforms is opposed by the Montreal "Gazette," the leading Conservative organ of the Dominion. Civil service reform would be opposed by every Conservative partisan throughout the constituencies. An independent commission to manage the Intercolonial is not a reform to be expected from the Conservative party.

There is no doubt of Mr. Borden's anxiety to support public reform, the only doubt is as to his ability to carry his party as far as he himself is willing to go. If he would call a convention of his followers—members, defeated and prospective candidates, and leading workers—and have them all approve and solemnly declare for these reforms, the public might be convinced. At present they are skeptical, and with good reason. That the Conservative party has been improved by eleven years in opposition there is no doubt. That the Conservative party would make a strong effort to rule well if returned to office, there is no doubt. That Mr. Borden would form a strong cabinet if called upon, there is little doubt. That Mr. Borden is personally growing in favour with the public, there is no question. That Mr. Borden is a great reformer who would do or die is still seriously questioned by the average elector.

To Conservatives, this may seem a pessimistic view of the situation, but it is well that Mr. Borden and his lieutenants should not be misled by the cheers of their enthusiastic but somewhat insincere followers into believing that the country is with them when it is not. Their day of victory will come, but there is an immense amount of work to be accomplished before the golden sun of public approval shines above them with the full glory of a noon-day splendour.

JUDGE D. P. BALDWIN, who recently spoke before the Lawyers' Club at the Chautauqua Assembly on "The Commercialisation of the Law," made some severe remarks which may apply to conditions in Canada, as well as the United States. While

**AN ETHICAL
REVIVAL** reflecting in unflattering terms upon the lawyer who is an ambulance chaser, Judge Baldwin stated: "But, while there has been a decline in some features of the law it is no worse than other professions. What is the literature of to-day and who are literary giants? Where will you find a great novelist in this country? Where are our great poets?"

"What we need is an ethical revival. We need higher standards in all our professional and personal activities. The law, in particular, must be uncommercialised. Lawyers need to pay more attention to logic, oratory, cul-