

PART II.

VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE.

"The situation in regard to iron ore remains unchanged, no material advancement having been made in the utilization of the numerous deposits throughout the Province. At present there is no market in the Province for iron ore, and, as a consequence, very little development-work has been done. There are, undoubtedly, a number of iron-ore deposits in different districts which are of considerable size, and which are, as a rule, very free from injurious elements. In considering the possibility of the successful establishment of an iron and steel industry, other factors besides availability of ore are important—namely, a sufficient market for the products, a supply of fuel near by at a price comparable with what it is in the east, and a steady supply of suitable labour. (Annual Report of Minister of Mines, Province of British Columbia, for year ending 31st December, 1913.)

This was the situation in regard to iron in British Columbia, when early in 1914, the Vancouver Board of Trade took up the question of the revival of the iron industry in British Columbia, as will be seen in the following summary of the minutes, of various Reports prepared and correspondence.

At a meeting of the Mining Committee held in April 1914 a Committee was appointed to report on the establishment of a smelter or refinery, or both, and the following report was submitted to a meeting held the following month:

Vancouver, B. C.

With reference to your request for data regarding the establishment of the Iron and Steel Industry at Vancouver, I have to submit the following:

SUPPLIES OF RAW MATERIAL.—There are ample supplies of raw material in the form of magnetite ore on Texada, Nelson, Redonda and other Islands, and on the East and West Coasts of Vancouver Island.

There are supplies of Limonite ore at Quatsino, Barclay Sound, Green Lake on the P. G. & E. Railway, Chilliwack and other accessible points.