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A PICTOU COPPER SMELTER

The Dominion Mining & Smelting Company, of Pictou, Nova Scotia, is urging upon the Government and people of that Province the necessity of securing lower rates of transportation. There are several promising deposits of copper in Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland Counties. There are also more than a few totally undeveloped properties being held by persons who cannot afford to open them under the conditions now prevailing. The Pictou smelter is favorably situated as regards water shipments. It overlooks the splendid harbor of Pictou. The present capacity of the smelter is seventy tons of ore per day, making a forty-five per cent. matte. The average charge of treatment at the smelter is about \$6 per ton for ore laid down at their wharf, or in the ore sheds by rail f.o.b. The company also offers to treat ores on the custom basis.

As a commercial enterprise, the Pictou copper smelter is decidedly worthy of encouragement. Concessions in the direction of nominal freight rates and active help from the Government in the development of individual properties should be offered cheerfully. The Provincial Government owns several diamond drills and has a Department of Mines. In what better work could the Department be engaged than in giving active assistance to the owners of copper properties. All of our important metallurgical industries have either started from very small beginnings or in their inception have met with serious obstacles. The soundest success is that resulting from a small beginning. It is altogether likely that Nova Scotia, by judiciously encouraging the attempt of the Dominion Mining & Smelting Company, will be taking the first step in establishing a successful and important industry of this nature. There is no need of injecting a large amount of capital. The smelter is already in operation. To keep it profitably employed, everyone at all interested in the copper possibilities of the Province should energetically push forward prospecting and development. And it is necessary always to bear in mind that rich returns must not be expected. The enterprise must be conducted on careful, business-like lines. Even though some time should elapse before a small margin of profit is obtainable, it must also be remembered that whenever a measure of success justifies the erection of a larger and more modern plant, the cost of operations can be very largely reduced. We hope that the Province will see and grasp its opportunity. We hope also that the Town of Pictou will substantially encourage what seems to be a most deserving undertaking.