

before the Customs Department, with evidence as above mentioned completed, within a period of six months from date of registration of the vessel upon which claim is made, otherwise the same shall be rejected.

Drawbacks shall be paid only on vessels which have within themselves the power of independent navigation, either by means of sails, steam, or other motive power.

CANADIAN IRON INDUSTRY.

IN January last when Mr. D. R. Wilkie, who had been elected president of the Toronto Board of Trade, was inducted into his office, in his inaugural address in speaking of the iron industry, said:—

The cheapening of the cost of iron entering into manufactures, and the encouragement of the mining interests of the country, are both exciting public attention. Is it not possible by an extension of the bounty system, and by a reduction in the tariff on iron, to fuse the apparently diverse interests of producers and consumers? At present the duties upon imported iron varies from two to thirteen dollars per ton, and there is a bounty allowed by the Dominion Government of \$4 per ton upon all iron produced and manufactured in the Dominion. The duty collected upon iron and steel, manufactured and unmanufactured, for the fiscal year ending June, 1892, amounted to \$2,792,088.12. The bonus earned by the smelting companies amounted only to \$30,294.37. The country could well afford to make a material reduction in the duty upon iron if the manufacturer in iron is enabled thereby to compete on more equitable terms than at present with his foreign rivals for his own and for their market. On the other hand, the development of the iron industry in Canada is of still greater moment, and any government that succeeds in developing that industry by bounty or otherwise, without undue pressure on the revenue, will receive the thanks of the community, irrespective of party. The removal of any royalty upon the ore now charged by provincial governments, if not more substantial assistance, would be a necessary complement to the arrangement. The establishing of smelting works in Toronto would add very largely to the wealth and importance of the city.

There is no man in Canada not directly engaged in some manufacturing industry who has shown more zeal in advocating and upholding the National Policy than Mr. Wilkie. Taking a broad and comprehensive view of the situation, from his prominent position in the financial circles of the country well able to see and understand the needs of it, and as a financier always in close and sympathetic touch with the manufacturers, his opinion has always been considered of great weight and value in the direction where he has uniformly taken so much interest. At the time Mr. Wilkie delivered his address the Dominion Parliament was in session, and a clamor was being made, both in the House of Commons and elsewhere, that some decisive and immediate action should be had by the Government looking to a reduction of the duties upon almost every dutiable article enumerated in the tariff. Some of these demands seemed to have an element of justice in them; and no items received more attention than those relating to iron. Acceding to office just at that time it was to be expected that Mr. Wilkie in his inaugural address would review the condition of the country from all the standpoints where the Board of Trade was interested. This included a number of industries where iron in different forms is a most important factor; and it was with regard of the possibilities of Canada as an exporter of manufactures of iron, including agricultural implements, etc., that he said: "The country could well afford to

make a material reduction in the duty upon iron if the manufacturer in iron is enabled thereby to compete on more equitable terms than at present with his foreign rivals for his own and for their market." This was a distinct call for a material reduction in the duty presumably upon all forms of iron.

We have never understood that those manufacturers who did not aspire to produce for foreign trade had ever made remonstrances against the iron duties. They were endeavoring to fully occupy their home market before attempting to reach out for foreign markets. But it seemed to be the more ambitious ones who desired the change—concerns like the Massey-Harris Company, who have occupied the home field and who desire to extend their trade to foreign countries—and it was and is this class of manufacturers who desire sweeping reductions in the iron duties to the better enable them to do this.

Mr. Wilkie was very explicit, however, in declaring that "the iron industry of Canada is of still greater moment" at this time than the export trade; his idea evidently being that while the export trade might be built up by reducing the iron duties, the iron industry might also be built up by the award of bonuses to the home producers. We quite agree with him that "any government that succeeds in developing that industry by bounty or otherwise will receive the thanks of the community." Considering the policy of the Government in the matter of the iron schedule of the tariff, it probably did well to bestow a bounty upon the production of pig iron made in Canada, but the result shows that something was wrong—so wrong that the bonus has failed to correct it, for after years of trial our pig iron industry has not developed into any such proportions as was hoped for; and experienced men entertain the belief that if it had not been for the inefficient tariff, which Mr. Wilkie's desires would make still more inefficient, the furnaces which were in operation at the formation of the tariff would long since have gone out of blast. Mr. Wilkie's idea, however, seems to be that the iron duties might very safely be lowered provided the bonus upon pig iron were increased. Possibly this might be the case; but by what process could additional bounties be obtained? It was only a few weeks ago that an influential delegation of the Ontario members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association waited upon Sir Oliver Mowat to ask him and his Government to promise a bounty upon the production of such pig iron as might be made in this province. It was pointed out to him that the establishment of an iron industry in Ontario would add greatly to the prosperity of the people; and the request was directly in line with what Mr. Wilkie said in his inaugural. Mr. Mowat has declined to entertain the proposition, and as there seems to be no probability of the Dominion Government going any further in this direction than they have already gone, we do not see how we can expect the industry to live when it would most certainly be slaughtered by any material reduction of the duties.

In our opinion it would be better for the Government to assist in building up such industries as we have, and in establishing a comprehensive iron industry, than to cripple them in an effort to have a few full fledged wealthy concerns expand their trade into foreign lands. Under a 35 per cent. protective tariff the manufacturers of agricultural implements have fully occupied the home market. Other industries of great value are striving to do the same—why not assist and encourage them to do so?