

are admitted into Canada free of duty, and most pathetically inquired "Is iron free?" "Is coal free?" His desire was to create the idea that if the first two named articles were admitted free of duty, the last two should be free also. He ignored the fact that there is no necessity for a duty on wool, and that Canada is not fitted by nature to be a producer of cotton, that being an article that grows to perfection only in tropical or sub-tropical countries, and that no amount of protection could stimulate its cultivation in this country. He ignored the fact also that Canada has inexhaustible deposits of both coal and iron, and that the great wealth of them should be developed. In Nova Scotia both these articles are found in close juxtaposition, with the result that most excellent iron is being made there, that we have there an extensive steel works, and that Nova Scotia coal finds a large and remunerative market as far west as Montreal. We know, too, that there are large deposits of iron ore in the Province of Quebec, and that no better charcoal iron is made than that produced there by the Canada Iron Furnace Company. We know, too, that Ontario contains immense deposits of iron ore, and that a large furnace for the manufacture of pig iron from it is now almost ready for operation at Hamilton.

The Dominion Government have very wisely undertaken to stimulate and encourage the production of pig iron in Canada, and have, as an inducement to that end, imposed a duty of \$4 per ton upon imported iron, and have offered a bonus of \$2 per ton upon the production of iron in Canada made from native ores.

In addition to this the Ontario Government have shown much liberality in an effort to develop the iron mines and the production of iron in this Province. At the recent session of the local Legislature an Act was passed entitled "An Act relating to mines and mining lands," by which an appropriation was made of the sum of \$125,000 to aid miners and producers of iron ore in developing the ore deposits of the Province. Clause 12 of the Act authorizes the payment to the miners or producers of iron ore which shall be mined and smelted in the Province the equivalent of \$1 per ton on the pig metal products of such ore, this for a period of five years to a maximum of \$25,000 per year.

Except under such hard times and commercial and financial distresses as have enveloped the world during the past few years, and except for the constant dread that should the Conservative Party be ousted from the control of the Dominion Government, these most favorable inducements for the encouragement of the iron industry in Canada would have resulted in the materialization of very many more iron furnaces than what we now have. But these generous offers hold good, that of Ontario being a most acceptable supplement to that of the Dominion; and, from the spirit that we know prevails at Ottawa, we have every reason to hope that if anything yet remains undone to accomplish and round out the fulfillment of the desire to firmly establish a Canadian iron industry, it will be done and that promptly.

Is there anything else that can be done, and what is it?

The Government have observed that certain Canadian industries have so expanded and grown under the influence of the National Policy that it was necessary, to assist in their fuller development, and that they might become ex-

porters to foreign countries, and that they might compete on equal terms with American manufacturers in such business, that they should be favored by having granted to them a rebate of the duties they might pay on foreign materials imported for the business, and exported. To do this an Order-in-Council was passed providing for such drawback, and that Order is now in force. The object of the Order was most commendable, and the spirit of it in strict consonance with that of the National Policy; but while it seems to work satisfactorily in some directions, unfortunately it is looked upon as a boomerang that is injuring the iron industry. Is this Order-in-Council, then, just the thing desired by the Government to benefit that industry?

What else could the Government do?

Could a system of bonus upon exports be adopted that would bestow all the advantages obtained by the Order-in-Council, avoid the objections made to that Order, not be overburdensome to the public treasury, be no clog upon any Canadian enterprise, and be of most decided advantage to the iron industry? It is contended that such a policy could be adopted with great advantage. It already exists in spirit in the bounty that is already being given upon the production of iron, in which both the Dominion and the Ontario Governments join. Liberals and Conservatives alike throughout Ontario and elsewhere in Canada have time and again endorsed the bonus system. The Montreal Herald in a recent article pointed out the fact that the Order-in-Council was already causing great injury to that most important part of the Canadian iron industry, viz., the manufacture of iron products from Canadian raw materials; and when such journals as the Montreal Star is found strongly fighting for the maintenance of the iron duties while they demand the lowering of duties upon other articles, the Government need have no apprehension as regards the popular verdict if it should adopt the bonus upon exports system in their policy for the development of our iron mines. Such a system might be initiated by granting a bonus upon all exports of iron and steel, in whatever form, equivalent to the duty imposed upon such forms of iron and steel were they being imported into Canada.

LIBELLOUS HYDROPHOBIA.

A case which was recently on trial in the Assize Court, Toronto, before Chancellor Boyd—that of the American Watch Case Company, of Toronto, against W. F. Doll, of Winnipeg, for libel, is of exceedingly great interest to Canadian manufacturers.

For a proper understanding of the merits of the case it should be stated that some two years ago Mr. Doll sold a lot of stamped up gold goods to a firm in Victoria, B.C., that is to say, low karat gold, which were stamped up to 18 karats. These goods it appears were ordered by the Victoria firm from Doll to be stamped up, and they no doubt knew what they were buying. Later they refused to pay their indebtedness to Doll, alleging that he had sold them stamped up goods instead of a quality indicated by the stamp mark. Doll sued them for the amount of his account, their defense being as above stated. A ver-