

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

the sea, and there are so many excellent harbours on all the coasts of the province that the cost of shipment would not be great. Mr. J. E. Woodman, a mining engineer who has prepared an interesting report on the iron ores of Nova Scotia for the Dominion Department of Mines, expresses the opinion that there are, scattered throughout Nova Scotia, in close proximity to transportation facilities by rail or water, a large number of deposits which, while not individually extensive enough to justify the erection of local smelters, could be economically mined for transportation to smelting centres. Development work at Torbrook, in Annapolis county, indicates that the hematite deposits there are quite important. There is some reason to believe that there is an extensive ore bed at Arisaig, on the coast of Antigonish county, but as no development work has been done this is uncertain. The Londonderry iron range, in Colchester county, extends for many miles, and although the deposits are not very deep the total quantity of ore is believed to be quite large. There are a number of varieties of ore in this range, including hematite, limonite, ankerite, siderite and specular ores. Except in the case of some small pockets the iron ores of Nova Scotia are too high in phosphorus to make Bessemer pig iron. They are usually low in sulphur, but Nova Scotia coal is commonly somewhat high in sulphur.

The iron ores of Nova Scotia would probably have received more attention from the iron and steel companies if there had been no other supply available, but the iron and steel companies have extensive deposits of ore at Great Bell island, in Conception bay, off the coast of Newfoundland, about 400 miles from Sydney, and this ore can be mined and transported in large ships to the blast furnaces in Cape Breton island so cheaply that the smaller bodies of Nova Scotia ore cannot compete. Although outside the present limits of Canada these Newfoundland iron ore deposits must be considered in a statement of Canada's natural resources, because their accessibility to Cape Breton's coal and limestone deposits has made it possible to establish great Canadian iron and steel works on the seaboard with ample and permanent supplies of cheap raw materials. English mining engineers have estimated that there is enough iron ore in the areas already opened up by the two great steel companies of Cape Breton island to supply larger plants than those now in existence for over a hundred years, and there are outer areas which, if the seams are continuous, as is supposed, would in their opinion probably yield a much larger quantity of ore than the areas now being worked. The ore has a good percentage of iron. It is low in sulphur, but rather high in phosphorus.

British success in supplying foreign markets with iron and steel has been largely due to the fact that the United Kingdom had extensive supplies of coal and iron ore close to the seaboard, and could get supplies of iron ore conveniently from other countries, while the geographical position of the country is favourable to a world-wide commerce. Nowhere else can conditions be found more nearly similar than in the Canadian island of Cape Breton. Coal is very widely distributed in Cape Breton, but the most valuable seams are those included in the coal field of Sydney, extending from Mira bay on the