

Subsection 3.—Iron.¹

The fact that iron ore is widely distributed in Canada has long been known, and extensive deposits have been discovered from time to time. The development of the iron-mining industry, however, has been retarded by the abundant supply of the higher-grade ores of Wabana, Newfoundland, and of the Mesabi range of the State of Minnesota. The production of pig iron and of steel ingots and castings in 1929 was larger than in any other year except the war years.

Nova Scotia.—The Wabana section of Newfoundland, containing one of the largest deposits of iron ore in the world, is operated by the British Empire Steel Corporation. The probable reserves in that area have been estimated at 3,635,000,000 tons, and the Wabana ore consists of an exceptionally high-grade hæmatite. Ore to the amount of 763,168 tons was shipped in 1929 to the blast furnaces of the company at Sydney, where the proximity of the adjacent coal-field favours the economical production of pig iron and steel. Development work carried on also at Torbrook, in Annapolis Co., indicates that the deposits there are very extensive; the ore is red hæmatite, containing a good percentage of iron rather high in phosphorus. An important iron ore field is the Arisaig district in Antigonish Co.

New Brunswick.—The most important deposits so far discovered are those in the Austin Brook district of Bathurst Co., where mining experts state that great masses of iron ore have been located.

Quebec.—It is estimated that there are many millions of tons of iron magnetite sands, containing a high percentage of iron, along the north shore of the St. Lawrence at Moisie, Mingan, Natashkwan and other places in Saguenay Co. The sands contain a high percentage of titanium, rendering the briquetted iron sands unfavourable for blast-furnace treatment. There are a number of deposits of bog iron ore in the St. Lawrence valley, remarkably free from sulphur and phosphorus. The bog iron ores were successfully used in charcoal blast furnaces at Radnor Forges and Drummondville for many years. Iron ore deposits also exist along the Gatineau river in Hull township, within a few miles of the city of Ottawa. The Bristol mine, in Pontiac Co., has been proved to contain large deposits of magnetite, but the ore is high in sulphur and would require roasting. It is known that Ungava or New Quebec contains large deposits of both magnetite and hæmatite.

Ontario.—The iron and steel industry in Ontario is chiefly dependent on imported ores, but several companies have demonstrated what can be done by the beneficiation of low-grade Canadian ores. The Moose Mountain iron range is situated about 35 miles north of Sudbury; over 100,000,000 tons of magnetite have been proved by the owners. The Atikokan district, west of Sabawa lake, contains approximately 15,000,000 tons of magnetite, while the Atikokan mine, to the east of the lake, has shown 10,000,000 tons. The deposits of non-Bessemer ore in the Michipicoten district are extensive, and millions of tons of red hæmatite were taken from the Helen mine. The Magpie mine produced siderite, which was roasted before being shipped to the blast furnaces at Sault Ste. Marie owned by the Algoma Steel Co. However, no discoveries have been made

¹ A sketch of the iron and steel industry of Canada was given on pp. 452-456 of the 1922-1923 Year Book.