

**Subsection 8.—Iron.\***

Iron ore is widely distributed in Canada and extensive deposits have been discovered from time to time. In Quebec there is a small annual production of titaniferous iron ore from a deposit near Baie St. Paul, but this material, which is principally exported, is used for its titanium content and not as a source of iron. There are millions of tons of iron magnetite sands, containing a high percentage of iron, along the north shore of the St. Lawrence in Saguenay Co., but these sands contain a high percentage of titanium, rendering the briquetted ore unfavourable for blast-furnace treatment, so that efforts to utilize them have not proved successful. There are also a number of deposits of bog iron ore in the St. Lawrence valley remarkably free from sulphur and phosphorus. These bog iron ores were successfully used in charcoal blast furnaces at Radnor Forges and Drummondville for many years. The known deposits of non-Bessemer iron ore in northern Ontario are very extensive. Millions of tons of red hæmatite were taken from the Helen mine in the Michipicoten district, while the Magpie mine in the same district produced siderite which was roasted before being shipped to the blast furnaces at Sault Ste. Marie. In British Columbia, some development work has been done on iron deposits on Kamloops lake and on Texada island, but no iron-mining or iron-smelting industry has become established in that province. Extensive deposits of hæmatite exist on the Belcher islands in Hudson bay, but the ore is rather low in grade and its comparative inaccessibility renders its development impracticable. Immense deposits of iron ores, large masses being high-grade, have been reported along the course of the Koksoak river, in northern Quebec, but these are so inaccessible that up to the present they have not even been systematically explored.

Hitherto there has been no great incentive to the development of the iron-mining industry in Canada, since there are easily accessible and abundant supplies in the higher-grade ores of Wabana, Newfoundland, and of the Mesabi range in Minnesota. The Wabana section of Newfoundland contains one of the largest deposits of iron ore in the world, the probable reserves in that area being estimated at 3,635,000,000 tons, and consisting of an exceptionally high-grade hæmatite.

In Ontario, where the iron and steel industry has reached its largest development in Canada, cheap and high-grade supplies of iron ore are readily available from the Mesabi range of Minnesota, while coal supplies are drawn from the nearby coal fields of Pennsylvania.

From Table 20 it will be observed that the tonnage of pig iron made in Canada in 1929 exceeded that of any previous year, while the 1929 quantities of steel ingots and castings made were exceeded only in the war years 1917 and 1918. Production has fallen off considerably since 1929 as a result of the reaction which set in during the latter part of that year. Ontario has been the leading producer of pig iron throughout the years recorded.

\* A sketch of the iron and steel industry of Canada was given on pp. 452-456 of the 1922-23 Year Book.