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OF
THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN IRON TRADES
IN 1880.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE
AMERICAN
IRON AND STEEL ASSOCIATION,

CONTAINING

STATISTICS OF THE AMERICAN IRON TRADE TO JANUARY 1,
1881, AND A REVIEW OF THE PRESENT CONDITION OF
THE IRON INDUSTRY IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

JAMES M. SWANK,
SECRETARY.

PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERS, JULY 30, 1881.

PHILADELPHIA:
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The success of this enterprise on Puget Sound should act as an incentive to our own capitalists to embark in a similar undertaking in the province, where it could be prosecuted under more advantageous circumstances. At the Irondale works the limestone rock has to be imported, and, owing to the absence of coal, the smelting has to be done with charcoal. These are drawbacks which add greatly to the cost of iron produced. On Texada Island limestone is abundant, and coal is obtainable in unlimited quantities in the immediate vicinity. These advantages would enable smelting to be there carried on under the most favorable circumstances possible. It has been stated that the company owning the Irondale works intended putting up a branch furnace on Texada Island, in order to supply the trade in this province as soon as the prospect of sufficient demand for iron to warrant the necessary expenditure of capital shall arise. It would be a reproach to the capitalists of this province to allow a foreign company to come in and manufacture our own iron and reap the profit of the undertaking. The opportunity now offered should be embraced by local capitalists. The extent of the expenditure required has been demonstrated by the cost of the Irondale works. A furnace erected on Texada Island certainly need not be more costly than that of Irondale, and could probably be put up at less expense. A comparatively small outlay by local capitalists now would enable them to reap the profit that will otherwise be acquired by the enterprising firm who have erected the furnace at Irondale.

All the requisites for the manufacture of pig iron being found in British Columbia and elsewhere on the Pacific coast, it would seem that the local demand would alone furnish a sufficient incentive to the erection of many blast furnaces of even greater capacity than that at Irondale. A charcoal furnace has for many years been in operation at Oswego, in Oregon, and one has this year been blown in at Clipper Gap, in California.

SOUTH AMERICA.

A somewhat ambitious iron enterprise in the State of Bayaica, in the United States of Colombia, was projected a few years ago, and in 1880 the erection of the necessary buildings and machinery was undertaken. The enterprise is under the care of the State Government, but its success is nevertheless regarded as problematical, owing partly to the low condition of the government treasury, and partly to the indifference of the people to the establishment of iron works or any other manufactures. The scheme embraces a blast furnace and a rolling mill at Samaca, about 65 miles east of Bogota. Six skilled workmen were engaged at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in July, 1880, and taken to Samaca to assist in the erection of the works and in putting them in operation, but in a short time