

The Pittsburg of Canada.

TO understand the location of Sydney, one must have a knowledge of the harbor. This excellent haven lies in a north easterly direction. At its mouth it is two miles wide ; four miles from the entrance it is divided by Point Edward into two arms, north-west and south. On the north side just before the division is reached, lies North Sydney, an enterprising town, having a population of 7,000. The city of Sydney is situated on the south arm.

Prior to the year 1899, Sydney claimed a population of but three or four thousand. But in that year the Dominion Iron and Steel Company decided to establish their plant here. Then followed the "boom". The old peaceful town was changed into a veritable beehive of industry. Shacks and huts went up as if by magic; for crowds of laborers, skilled and unskilled, were required, and these workmen must have places of abode.

In three years the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. were exporting their product. It was about this time that the two great corporations, Dominion Iron and Steel Co. and the Dominion Coal Co., united forces. Both the plants are situated in the eastern end of the city—what now comprises ward five.

A "boom" town is not one remarkable for its beauty and regularity, and Sydney was no exception. Shacks and hurriedly constructed frame buildings crowded one another everywhere. Charlotte St., the main business centre, was a disreputable looking thoroughfare with its buildings jutting out on the street. In 1903 there occurred what is now regarded as a most providential calamity; in October of that year the city

was visited by a most destructive conflagration. The whole business section of the city was swept by the devastating flames ; but from the ruins there arose a new Sydney, the city that is the boast and pride of all her citizens. The shacks and wooden structures were replaced by magnificent brick and stone blocks, the irregular and dirty streets by broad, well-paved avenues, which command the admiration of all.

Shortly after Sydney's fire the powerful corporations, Dominion Iron and Coal Cos., dissolved partnership and again became independent concerns. From this union and consequent dissolution arose the great controversy between the two companies, which for two years attracted world-wide attention, ultimately involving damages exceeding two million dollars, and, strange to say, only this year have we seen the former partners and disputants, again into one. United, the corporation now has a capital exceeding thirty millions.

In connection with this, it might be interesting to draw a comparison between Sydney and Pittsburg, and the advantages of the former for the production of iron and steel will then be plainly evident. Sydney has its coal, in well nigh infinite quantities, close at hand ; Pittsburg finds it necessary to rail its coal a distance of eighty miles. For its flux, Sydney has to go a very short distance to obtain limestone, in any quantities, while Pittsburg seeks it one hundred and thirty miles from the reducing plant. Then again, Sydney besides possessing a harbor, unexcelled in America, is one of the most convenient sea-ports on the Atlantic coast ; whereas, Pittsburg's nearest sea-port, Philadelphia, is three hundred and fifty miles distant. For European export, Sydney has a great advantage, being eight hundred and eighty miles nearer Europe than Philadelphia. So, it is not strange that Sydney steel is

securing such a splendid market in the old country, and is becoming more and more a rival to Pittsburg. It is but natural, that following the establishment of this mammoth steel plant, other lesser industries should choose Sydney as their headquarters. Thus we find a Tar and Chemical plant, Cement manufactory, Rolling mills, Biscuit factory and many other less important industries. Every new industry means an increase in population and the energetic people of Sydney unite in furthering the interests of their young city.

At the civic census, taken last year, the population, was seventeen thousand and it goes without saying that the citizens are receiving well merited returns for their enterprise. It must be admitted by all that the prospects of Sydney are of the brightest color and that Pittsburg's healthy young Canadian rival bids fair yet to set the pace in the production of Iron and Steel.

