

EXCHANGE

Client will exchange Rosedale four-story house, worth \$25,000, for downtown business property.

PROB.—Mild, with rain or sleet at first; turning colder by evening, with strong winds.

The Toronto World

FOURTEEN PAGES—SATURDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 6 1915—FOURTEEN PAGES

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VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,505

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ORDERS NICKEL INQUIRY GENERAL MACKENZIE'S ARMY LOSES THIRTY THOUSAND MEN

Half the Nickel Battle Won! But Prohibition Must Be Declared!

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, the new minister of mines in the present Government, handed out last night the following official announcement regarding nickel, following a study of the subject on his part since he came into office: It reads:

Conditions that have arisen out of the present war have made the nickel industry of Ontario the subject of a great deal of discussion. The nickel lands of the Canadian Copper Company, the Mond Nickel Company, the British American Nickel Corporation, and other corporations and individuals, were sold years ago under a former government in fee simple without any restrictions or limitations as to the working of the mines or the disposition of the products thereof. The question, however, of refining nickel in Ontario is by no means a new one. It has received the attention of successive governments, and it was the well-known policy of the Whitney Government, as it is of the present government, to do everything possible to secure the refining of nickel in Ontario, when satisfied that it was commercially practicable so to do.

To this end legislation was passed in 1907 authorizing the payment of a bonus of 60 per cent on nickel refined in this province, and that legislation is still in force. Moreover, the department of mines has constantly had this matter in view with the same object. The nickel industry in Ontario is a very large and important one, expending several millions of dollars in labor and supplies in this province, and up to the present time the government has not been convinced that any action preventing the export of nickel would not have the effect of transferring the nickel business, of a substantial part thereof, from Ontario to New Caledonia, Norway or elsewhere. Up to the present time, therefore, it does not appear to have been permitted of the operation being a commercial and economical success in Ontario.

Metallurgical science, however, has made rapid advances in recent years, and it may be that the conditions with respect to the nickel industry have materially changed. In order to ascertain all the facts and acquire full knowledge of the situation, it has been decided to appoint a commission to investigate the whole question. If the report of the commission makes clear the practicability of refining nickel in Ontario, the necessary steps will be taken to see that this is brought about.

This commission will also consider whether the nickel and other mining industries of the province are paying their full share of provincial taxation, and the proper basis upon which such taxation should be levied. The commission will have pleasure in examining every possible source of information, and make a complete report thereon to the Government.

It is scarcely necessary to add that a subject of such magnitude and complexity can only be properly dealt with by men of exceptional ability, and those to be selected will be men of special qualifications, who will command the fullest confidence of the public.

At last we get the ball rolling in regard to nickel—the nickel connoisseurs are coming down to the World's jurisdiction. The Ontario Government announces that it is to appoint a commission to investigate the whole nickel question, the ownership of the mines, whether the smelted ore can be refined into the pure metal in this country, whether the nickel companies are paying their full share of provincial taxation.

So far, so good. The notice given on the opening day of parliament by Mr. Maclean of a bill to prohibit the export of nickel may have brought things to a head. But the appointment of a commission does not settle, and cannot settle Mr. Maclean's main contention, that while this war is on, the export of nickel to the United States, or any country, outside of Britain or her allies, must be prohibited. Now can we turn over the control of our nickel after it is refined in the States to a company whose main business is to sell as much as she can of it to Germany? Notwithstanding "the assurances" that may be forthcoming.

And this control of the output is a matter of national politics, of federal action, and concerns this war that is now on, and this eagerness of Germany to get more of our nickel wherewith to build warships, torpedo boats, case her ammunition. She could use some in her new fleet of air craft. So the responsibility is still with the Ottawa Government and parliament. It is to be hoped that the Ontario Government and parliament are organizing a blockade of nickel to get out of our country, that the British navy is organizing a blockade of German ports, and the British navy, the admiralty, are not willing to take the assurance of an American company given to the Canadian Government that Germany will get none of it! But why should we put the nickel here and under our own control?

Nor would such control cause any great inconvenience to the working of the mines or the labor employed. But even if it did, labor is not the first thing against the safety, the very life of the empire, and ammunition made by soldiers and sailors, needed by Germany, must be a contributing factor toward our Canadian nickel. An article contraband as against the empire! Rather than this, if we can, let us never allow it to become contraband! That is the issue that Mr. Maclean's bill will present to parliament if the Ottawa Government does not anticipate what he has in hand, and prohibit the export by an order-in-council, prohibiting the export of nickel matter. And if it must be refined abroad, it might be possible to let the International Company take out fourth with it. It might be possible to let the International Company take out fourth with it. It might be possible to let the International Company take out fourth with it.

The action of the Ontario Government proves our whole case, tho it does not venture in the field. We think we know a way how the province could even prohibit the export. But it needs a bold swimmer and a free hand to do it.

As to the only national policy of refining our nickel at home, we could say a lot and would be disposed to give the government credit for what it is doing, and we could discuss with some effect the substantial revenue that this province might be entitled to take from the industry; also the idea of nationalizing the whole nickel field; of making a national monopoly of nickel as a war use is concerned, of developing a policy of conservation that would be a lesson for all the world—but all these things come out in the wash of the commission. But don't wait for the commission to report before the treasurer of the province starts to collect the back dues from the company that distributed by many millions of profit—and paid in so small a percentage! Don't wait for the commission to report—go out, Mr. Ferguson, and get the money. The crown moves fast when there is an attempt to circumvent the duties and excise revenues.

Mr. Ferguson, you are starting well, but keep busy. And now that the Ontario Government is about to deal with this question, we take the liberty of calling public attention to the statement of The Globe of Thursday of this week to the effect that the Hon. W. J. Hanna, K.C., associated with Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., of the International Petroleum Company, recently incorporated, with interests connected with the Imperial Oil Company, which is one of the Canadian forms of the great Standard Oil Company. We do not think that it is a good thing that ministers of the crown should be associated in these great monopolies, whether in oil, nickel or electrical energy and things of that kind, that are all more or less subject to vital contact with public welfare. It is perfectly right for Mr. Wallace Nes-

FRENCH MAKE GOOD HEADWAY IN CHAMPAGNE

More Ground Occupied at Expense of Germans North of Beausejour.

TIDE TURNS IN ARGONNE

Attack of Enemy From South of Altkirch, in Alsace, Defeated.

SIR GEORGE PERLEY AT FRONT

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—Sir George H. Perley, acting high commissioner for the Dominion in London, has gone to the front, and for the next few days he will be at the British headquarters in France. It is understood Sir George's trip is to acquaint himself with the arrangements made for the Canadian expeditionary force before it goes into active service.

10,000 More From Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia, Feb. 5.—(Via London, 7:43 p.m.)—A further expeditionary force of 10,000 men has been offered by Australia and accepted by the British Government. This is in addition to reinforcements of 4000 men monthly.

AUSTRIANS' HEAVY LOSS IN CARPATHIAN BATTLE

Uncensored Report Gives Number at Ten Thousand—Soldiers Die of Hunger.

ANNULLED EXEQUATORS BELGIUM ISSUES PROTEST

U. S. Holds Germany Has Right Only to Suspend Mission of Consuls When Necessary.

MAY WITHDRAW TO GERMANY.

Canadian Press Despatch. GENEVA, Switzerland, Feb. 5, 3:59 p.m.—Gen. Von Bordingen, staff commander of the German operations in lower Alsace, with headquarters near Altkirch, has been forced by allied aviators, who bombed the headquarters, to return to the Mulhouse, from which place take papers and valuables are being removed to Freiburg.

A German aeroplane fell at Mudorf, near the Swiss frontier at Basle, yesterday. The two officers in the aeroplane were seriously injured and the machine was smashed.

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We have not space this morning to deal with the letters we have received on the nickel question, nor to quote from the most excellent articles that came to our notice yesterday, demanding the prohibition of the export of nickel. A very able article appears in The Gleaner of Fredericton, N.B., another in The Examiner of Peterboro, and a third in The Brantford Expositor, and an especially imperative one in The Contract Record of this present week. We may quote later on.

TORONTO OFFICER DIED LEADING MEN IN CHARGE

Lieut. Norman Nelles, Son of Col. Nelles, of R. C. Dragoons, Toronto, Rallied Soldiers and Captured Some German Trenches When Killed.

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RUSSIANS MOVE ACROSS BZURA ON OFFENSIVE

Czar's Troops Capture German Positions and Threaten Von Hindenburg's Flank.

MAY BREAK DEADLOCK

Main Army of Enemy Held at Borjimon, Where Fighting is Desperate.

RUSSIANS AND GERMANS BATTLE FOR AEROPLANE

Spirited Tug-of-War Contest When Taube Machine Fell Between Trenches.

EARL OF ABERDEEN WILL CHANGE TITLE

He Will Style Himself Marquis of Tenuir to Stifle Criticism.

Main Army of Turks Nearing Suez Canal?

Ninety Thousand Turks and Twenty Thousand Bedouins Reported to Be Only Twenty-two Miles From Waterway—Force is Weak in Artillery.

Dineen's Advance Shipment of Heats' Spring Hats is Here

Many have been the expressions of genuine admiration and of the stylish smartness of these hats now being shown at 140 Yonge street. There is a strong feeling here for something trim and dainty among the men of Toronto these days, and this shipment of new hats meets the demand to the letter. They are fairly high in the crown with a heavy roll brim and in the well-known superior health quality. This is expected to be a busy day at Dineen's, for they are clearing a fine serviceable line of unfinished soft felt and wool hats that were priced \$2.50 for \$1.50. This great value and should be a rare draw. Store is open till 10 tonight.

RAILWAY BATTLE DISASTROUS TO GERMAN ARMS

General Mackenzen Lost Thirty Thousand Men in Defeat by Russians.

RESERVES ALL USED UP

Prussian Guards Hurried Up From Lovick Unable to Secure Victory.

RUSSIANS TOOK OFFENSIVE

With the German army up the front was spent, the Russian rose up after the smoke and doubled around the low broken walls around the display, where the Germans had been working 50 machine guns. The Russians captured 15 in the desperate quarter fight, which ended. Meanwhile the Russians at the southern end of the battle found a weak position in the German line and through this they poured into the park at Sudovitskaya. About an hour later the Germans were driven some distance south into the park at the main line, leaving thousands of them. They lost about 30,000 killed in this six-mile battle. Very many of them fell by the bayonets. The Russians established a great advantage by compelling the Germans to use their reserves in the desperate quarter fight. Von Hindenburg left Mackenzen no free troops for manoeuvring. All signs, however, point to a renewal of the headlong fighting as being the imperative necessity of the plan to launch great battles simultaneously in central Poland and the Carpathians.

The position in the Carpathians is momentary. Indeterminate. The Russian reserves succeeding in all places as far east as the Tuchovka Pass, behind the sources of the Opor, a tributary of the Sary River. A great combined column of Germans and Austrians hold this gap and have a railway to Munkacs in their rear. The Russians, after ten assaults, drew back to prepared positions northeast of the Stry Valley. The German leader refuses to send his men forward.

The Russians continue to make valuable progress in East Prussia.

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