

APPENDIX No. 5

By the Chairman:

Q. You said the last coin was an Austrian coin?—A. Yes, an Austrian coin.

Mr. MACDONALD.—That would not be as easily counterfeited.

Mr. RHODES.—They never counterfeit a coin of small value, do they? I never heard of such a case. When they are going to counterfeit coins they take a 25 or 50-cent piece or a dollar.

The WITNESS.—I suppose as a rule they do, but what I had in mind was, it requires machinery of a special kind to make an impression.

By the Chairman:

Q. It is very hard, much harder than silver?—A. I have in my pocket a piece of metallic cobalt which it is very hard to distinguish from nickel, and I think it would be just as suitable for coinage purposes as the nickel would be.

Q. Well, Mr. Gibson, have we any works in Canada that produce refined nickel, pure nickel?—A. No, sir.

Q. I think perhaps if you make inquiry you will find that we have. Mr. O'Brien, who has a smelter somewhere, I can't name the town—A. Are you thinking of the Doloro Mining and Reduction works in the county of Hastings?

Q. I think so, I think that is the place. Well, he told me a few days ago that they had refined the nickel—they were getting a small quantity of it in the Cobalt ores—and that they were refining it and making it pure nickel, if I am not mistaken?—A. That is news to me. I know, of course, that nickel does occur in the Cobalt ores, but it has not been regarded profitable as yet to separate it, and if it is being separated it is probably in the form of nickel oxide rather than in the form of metallic nickel; I speak subject to any later information you have obtained.

Q. You may be right, but when he said they were making the refined, pure nickel, I took it that it was in the ordinary form without asking any questions, but perhaps you are right in that?—A. I may say that the Ontario legislature passed a law three years ago offering a bounty of 6 cents a pound on all nickel refined in the country, but so far no claims have been put forward for that bounty.

Mr. RHODES.—Perhaps Mr. O'Brien doesn't know about that bounty.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes, he knows about that, but the quantity he is producing is so very small that probably he hasn't thought it worth while to make an application yet, but I gathered from his remarks that he intends to increase the capacity of that plant?—A. I think that the Doloro Reduction Works and other works that have been put up in Ontario for the treatment of Cobalt ores are looking more to the utilization of the cobalt than the nickel; there is a larger percentage of cobalt in the ores than nickel, and the product is worth more money.

Q. I understand they are getting that, but they get this as a separate metal, don't they?—A. They do not reduce it to a metallic condition; they make cobalt oxide, of course they recover the arsenic and silver as well.

The CHAIRMAN.—Are there any further questions that any members would like to ask Mr. Gibson? As there do not appear to be any more questions I think we need not detain you longer, and I might, on behalf of the committee, Mr. Gibson, thank you very much for coming without a summons or anything of that kind, voluntarily, and giving us the very interesting information which you have given.

Mr. R. W. BROCK called.

By the Chairman:

Q. Mr. Brock, you are an officer of the Department of Mines?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Just what office do you occupy?—A. Director of the Geological Survey.