

trol the export of nickel, and we believe that this should and can be brought about without disregarding the rights of investors and the needs of manufacturers.

The "World" would kill off the New Jersey nickel refining industry before the Canadian is born.

## U. S. CONSUMPTION OF NICKEL

In its issue of August 8 the "Toronto World" says:—"The 'Canadian Mining Journal' declares itself against an embargo upon the export of nickel, and repeats, impliedly at least, what so many public men in this country have said expressly, namely, that all the Canadian nickel refined in New Jersey by International Nickel is either exported to allied countries or directly furnished to American manufacturers actually engaged in making munitions for the Allies."

The "World" is mistaken in interpreting anything which has appeared in these columns to mean that all or nearly all the nickel exported to the United States is re-exported to allied countries or used in the manufacture of munitions for the Allies. We have repeatedly stated that the United States is the largest consumer of nickel. The consumption for war purposes has been large, and for peace purposes also large quantities are used.

We have referred to the nickel used for war purposes in considering the proposal to prohibit export of matte. We have never, however, intimated that all the nickel in the matte exported to the United States is used for war purposes. It is surely no secret that nickel is being used in the United States in the manufacture of a countless variety of articles, some of which are to be found in almost every home.

If we remember rightly some member of Parliament has made the statement that all the nickel exported is used for war purposes or re-exported to allied countries. The statement is, of course, absurd, and we are not surprised that the "World" has objected to it. It rather surprises us, however, to find ourselves made to appear as believing such nonsense.

## MR. WILKIE ON THE NICKEL INDUSTRY

Writing in the "Canadian Magazine," Mr. George Wilkie says: "Nickel has been the subject of speaker and writer for years. The nickel ore is Canadian, but the nickel metal is entirely non-Canadian. The nickel ore is part of the very soil of Canada. It is torn from the Canadian rock and raised to the surface in Canada, for that is inevitable. But the moment it has been detached, the ore is out of the control of Canada and Canadians, and is sent out of her borders, having contributed to Canada the privilege and profit of operating the boarding-house at which the miners live while blasting and raising the ore. Some of the employed are Canadians residing permanently in Canada. Many are foreigners who are imported into Canada by the foreigners who control the industry. The

nickel-mining community is no exception. It is hard to govern. It produces more than its share of disorder and crime. The population it gathers about it is vigorous for good or evil. That population we provide for—doubtless at a profit, and we govern and keep it in order—at an expense. A little tax on the value of the ore at the mine goes to the Province of Ontario. When you have cast up the account of those items the balance, if any, will show the profit and loss to Canada on this natural resource."

From Mr. Wilkie's article we assume that he has depended on "speaker and writer" for his information concerning the nickel industry. His knowledge of it does not seem to extend far beyond the contents of some few letters written by Government officials. His opening paragraphs make us wonder whether he visited the Sudbury district before venturing to write about it in what should be a first-class magazine. His knowledge of the nickel industry leads him to conclude his article with this: "So far as the advantage to Canada at large is concerned we are but little better off for the nickel that is in Canada than we would be if it were in Oklahoma."

Mr. Wilkie's article does not impress us as being a serious attempt to present the facts. It is to be regretted that the nickel mines are not controlled by Canadians and that the refining is not done here. That, however, does not warrant the publication of the writings of Mr. Wilkie.

## COMPOSITION OF NATURAL GAS

Mr. James Ashworth in the "Coal Age" (Vol. 10, No. 4) objects to our criticism of the report on "Petroleum and Natural Gas Resources of Canada," in so far as this referred to analyses of natural gas. We admit that all he says regarding gas found in coal mines may be true, but this has no necessary connection with the composition of natural gas unless Mr. Ashworth is prepared to prove that these two kinds of gas have the same origin.

Bulletin 42 of the United States Bureau of Mines not only gives analysis of natural gas from many districts, all of which show no hydrogen, carbon monoxide or heavy hydro-carbons; although previous analysis of gas from some of these localities by others have given hydrogen, etc., but it also explains the details of the methods of analysis and shows that the apparent presence of these constituents is due to a faulty mode of analysis. As this Bulletin is the most complete study of the composition and methods of analysis of natural gas up to the present, it is absurd for Mr. Ashworth to characterize it as "slight support." The most complete work of this nature published in Canada is in the Report for the Bureau of Mines (of Ontario) for 1914. This corroborates the results given in Bulletin 42 entirely, and shows the complete absence of the constituents referred to above in the large number of samples involved.