

In this connection another interesting series of experiments is being carried on in Toronto by the Moffat Irving Steel Company. Quite recently this company has made nickel steel in Toronto directly from roasted nickel ore.

The application of scientific research to industry is an every day occurrence in mining and metallurgy. The war has created new demands which are being met by renewed efforts.

While recognition of the value of scientific research is no new thing in the mining industry it is new in some industries. During the past year the public has begun to appreciate the fact that closer relations between scientists and business men are desirable. Some of our scientists have not been slow to appreciate the fact that scientific and industrial research is the popular thing. Adopting the methods of a well known Toronto broker, they have recently been taking advantage of every opportunity to shout "I know something." The sequel is seen in the appointment of an advisory council on scientific and industrial research. We cannot congratulate Sir George Foster on his choice. An advisory council made up of men who have had some experience in the application of science to industry might be of great value to the country. So far as the mining industry is concerned we do not expect much help from the council as at present constituted. Nor do we see that other industries are likely to receive very valuable advice from these men.

AN INVENTORY NEEDED

Elsewhere in this issue we publish extracts from a speech on the nickel problem by Mr. H. H. Dewart. Mr. Dewart points out clearly how Germans have controlled the metal trade of the world. He exposes some of the schemes whereby the citizens of other countries are deceived by the agents of the metal trust. His remarks lead us to expect that if he were not so bound by party ties, Mr. Dewart might do some real service to the country in helping to rid us and the Empire of undesirable German influence. Unfortunately Mr. Dewart, after the manner of most of our politicians, weakens his arguments by charging his political opponents with responsibility for everything that is done wrong and for all unsatisfactory conditions that exist or that he claims exist.

Mr. Dewart continues to make charges against the Provincial and Federal Governments and against the International Nickel Company without presenting very strong evidence to support his charges. The Government continues to deny the charges and so far we have no good reason to believe that Mr. Dewart's remarks concerning Canadian nickel reaching Germany are for other than political effect. We are at a loss to understand however why a politician should make such

charges merely to further the interests of his party. This is no time for such methods.

Ignoring what Mr. Dewart says about his political opponents, there are to be found in his statements some facts that should be known to every Canadian. Only when they are known and appreciated may we hope to rid ourself completely of German influence in the mineral industry.

In order that we may know who controls our industries we should have an inventory.

Every company operating in Canada should be called upon to give an account of itself. We should have on record at Ottawa the name, nationality and extent of the holdings of every shareholder of every company operating in Canada. There should be on record, a statement concerning affiliation with companies outside of Canada. Companies which refuse to give the desired information and those found guilty of giving false information should not be allowed to operate in the country.

THE LINDSEY EPISODE

As a political stroke, it is likely that most of our readers consider Mr. Dewart's reference to the Lindsey letter anything but a success. Many speak of it as a boomerang, and so it appears to us. It seems likely however that the publicity given to the incident may prove useful to the country even though it has not proven good party material.

In the first place it is well that the public should know that if a Russian company wishes to buy Canadian nickel it cannot obtain it in Canada nor through any Canadian company or agent. It must make its purchases through the firm of Merton & Co. The fact that this firm is now under British control does not wholly satisfy us. Is there no truly British firm in England that could have handled the business? If not, is it because the influence of the German firm was so great that no independent Britisher was able to carry on successfully trade in metals won from British ores?

In the second place it is no credit to Canada that Mr. Lindsey was forced to tell his Russian clients that the Sudbury nickel we brag so much about is not on sale in Canada, but that we only ship out the matte which is refined in other countries by non-Canadian companies and sold by them through a lately-German company.

IRON AND STEEL.

A bulletin, by John McLeish, on the iron and steel industry of Canada has just been published by the Mines Branch, Ottawa. It contains much useful information concerning progress in 1915, some of which is included in this number of the "Journal."