

a large scale. This is known among metallurgists as the Orford process. Since then the Orford Copper Company has been the principal, though not the only buyer of matte, from the Canadian Copper Company. Mr. Wharton is still a buyer. The Nickel Works at Havre, France, Wiggins of Birmingham, and the Vivians of Swansea, besides German and other concerns are buyers of nickel ore and matte, coming from other parts of the world.

ORFORD COPPER CO. NOT FINANCIALLY INTERESTED IN THE
CANADIAN COPPER CO.

Neither the Orford Copper Company, nor any of its shareholders nor officers, nor anyone connected with it has any stock or interest in the Canadian Copper Company. On the other hand, no shareholder nor officer of the Canadian Copper Company has an interest or stock in the Orford Copper Company. Their relations are simply those of buyer and seller. The Orford Copper Company buys where it can do so most advantageously, either from Canada, New Caledonia or Norway. The Canadian Copper Company sells only to those who will pay the best prices. For years past, however, it has been experimenting on new inventions and suggestions with a view to refining its own metal if it can be done profitably. It has a laboratory and works near Cleveland, under the charge of experienced chemists and metallurgists, and has already spent over \$200,000 in trying to find a process which would enable it to place its own metallic nickel and nickel oxide in the market. So far without success, as it finds it to be more profitable to leave that part of the business to those who have proved themselves successful. Mr. Ritchie insinuates, in a sneaking way, that there is some corrupt understanding between the officials of the Canadian Copper Company and those of the Orford Copper Company. On this point the president of the Orford Copper Company wrote the *Mail and Empire*, 16th December last, as follows:— "At a certain date a contract in writing was made between the Orford Copper Company and the Canadian Copper Company; this provides for certain payments to be made by the one company to the other; these payments have been made monthly. No other payments of any kind or benefits of any kind have been given by me, or by the Oxford Company, or by anyone connected with it to the Canadian Copper Company, or anyone of its stockholders, or to anyone connected with it; and no person connected with the Canadian Copper Company is connected with the Orford Copper Company, or interested in its stock or in the profits it makes under its contracts with the Canadian Copper Company."

"Your suggestion imputes to me dishonourable conduct; if you have any doubt left as to the untruth of the statements that must have been made to you, and upon which you based your suggestion, put your suggestion in the form of an allegation and I shall prove its untruth in your courts." This was to the *Mail and Empire*, not to Mr. Ritchie. It would be useless to waste powder and shot on a dead duck.

MAJOR LECKIE SCORES RITCHIE

As for myself, notwithstanding Mr. Ritchie's allegations, I have never owned a single share in the Canadian Copper Company, have never been in its service, and have never received from it or its officers a dollar, directly or indirectly, for any services performed. Mr. Ritchie's letter, therefore, starts with a gross falsehood, which is continued throughout the five columns given to him, and winds up with a piece of personal vulgarity quite characteristic of him. It would be tiresome to go on recounting and correcting the inaccuracies of Mr. Ritchie's letter, because where he is not falsifying, he is indulging in arrant claptrap—"browbeating the Canadian Government, &c.," is rather comical?

Mr. Ritchie is not a Canadian, neither is he a British subject. Whence all this benevolent interest in the welfare of a Canadian industry and his enmity to those of his native country? It arises simply from his hostility to the Canadian Copper Co. But why should his fancied wrongs or hallucinations be elements in the discussion of the nickel question? The character of his letter should be its own condemnation. Where he attempts to deal with figures relating to comparative costs of smelting and refining, he exhibits a complete ignorance of the subject. His argument all through, if personal abuse can be called such, is against the company. There is no need of my defending the Canadian Copper Company. It has proved itself well able to defend its own interests and those of its shareholders against the vindictive attacks of Mr. Ritchie. In his numerous suits against the company or its officers, he acknowledges constant defeat, but attributes it to the corruption of its Legislature and Courts, and then insults the House of Commons by talking of the influence of lobbyists. One of Mr. Ritchie's suits in Ohio, against the Canadian Copper Company, involved a claim of \$500,000, for services rendered it in having the duty on nickel, in various forms, reduced, as well as for other services. Now he takes the stand that the company is responsible for this action, and ought to be punished by the Canadian Government for having done it! To whomsoever the credit is due, should be given the thanks of Canadian ore producers for accomplishing a task so difficult and beneficial.

MAJOR LECKIE'S OPERATIONS AT SUDBURY.

That I am buying or securing options on nickel properties about Sudbury as stated by Mr. Ritchie, is untrue. Last December, I bought a mining lease and plant and had authority to invest a very considerable sum in mining property, but as soon as the *Globe* and other supposed ministerial organs, gave countenance to this unwise agitation for an export duty on nickel ore and matte, that authority was withdrawn and some of the capital invested elsewhere. I am now *en route* to Norway to examine some recent discoveries of pyrrhotite reputed to run high in nickel, and which, if confirmed, will absorb some of the capital which otherwise would have been invested in Canada. Mr. Ritchie's inaccuracies regarding my business about Sudbury may in some degree be excused, as he has been misled regarding the facts by a poor creature there, who in turn betrays Mr. Ritchie's confidence.

A year ago, I made a visit there in the interest and at the request of the Orford Copper Company, and have since then from time to time made other visits. Two new mines are being opened in that district under my direction, but neither of them show a trace of nickel nor were ever expected to. For the reasons already given the nickel mine will remain unworked so long as there is a prospect of its product being prohibited from finding a market.

LOW PRICE OF NICKEL.

The present production of nickel is quite up to the demand and no advance in price has been made. Canada is producing about one-third of this amount, but it is doubtful if this year's output will be as large as last. Mr. Ritchie refers to "the tremendous advance in the price of copper." Now if Canada controls the nickel market of the world, why has the price of that metal not advanced likewise? Simply because the assumption is quite inaccurate. Its production has had a very great influence in depressing the price by aggressive competition, but this is a very different thing from controlling the market. It has had the power to reduce the price but not to increase it. Mr. Ritchie among endless other misstatements says: "The rise in the price of New Caledonia stock is owing to the contract with the Canadian Copper Company not to cut the price of nickel, &c." This is quite untrue. If you refer to the well informed Paris correspondent of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, you will find that he frankly states the cause of the rise to be the prospective withdrawal of Canadian competition owing to anticipated prohibitive export duty.