Trade," recently published in New York, of which Mr. R P Rothwell is editor and compiler, under the head of nickel, says as follows regarding the production of that metal in the United States last year:

"The domestic production of nickel was 11,145 pounds, all from Missouri, against 33,700 in 1897. American refiners, however, produced in 1898 from both domestic and imported ores 7,138,929 pounds. The average value of nickel at New York in 1898 was 34.5 cents per pound against 34.62 in 1897."

In order to obtain further information as to the sources of the American supply of nickel, the writer made enquiries of Mr. Rothwell, who very kindly supplied the following statistics in reference to the years 1895-98.

The production of nickel from all United States sources was:—

Year.	Pounds.	Value.	Value per pound, cents.
1895.....	10,302	$3,091	30.013
1896.....	17,170	4,464	26
1897.....	33,700	11,568	34.62
1898.....	11,145	3,806	34.15

The figures relating to 1897 and 1898 are of the output of the mines at Mine La Motte, Missouri, where the nickel was recovered as a by-product in smelting lead ores, and there were no other nickel mines in active operation in the United States during those years.

The imports of nickel into the United States during the years indicated, and the value thereof—not including manufactures of nickel, as reported by the United States Bureau of Statistics, are represented by the first group of figures in the following table, the second group indicating the amount of nickel contained in Canadian ores recovered by refiners in the United States with the value:—

	All Imports.		Imports from Canada.	
Year.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
1895.....	2,355,749	$629,910	2,678,661	$594,504
1896.....	102,412	32,532	3,696,939	819,390
1897.....	177,392	53,013	4,099,390	1,419,209
1898.....	Not reported.		7,127,784	2,459,085

It may be noted in explanation that the importation of nickel in 1895 was exceptionally heavy, owing to the activity which prevailed that year in the construction of war ships—a factor of the demand which in the future is likely to increase rather than diminish under the policy of expansion. The noteworthy features of the United States statistics, furnished by so unexceptionable authority, are the infinitesimal fraction of the nickel supply coming from mines within their own boundaries, and the rapid increase in the volume of nickel-bearing ores imported from Canada. These facts place beyond cavil or controversy the wisdom of the policy inaugurated by the Ontario Government. The United States are dependent upon us for their supply of nickel in one form or other, and while they maintain a hostile tariff which under present conditions excludes from their market the refined metal, we should, in self-defence, meet them by an export duty or prohibition regulation on the raw material which will ensure its manufacture here, and give our own people the full advantage arising from the establishment of that industry. In undertaking to carry out this principle, Hon. George W. Ross has deserved well of the country, and will, we trust, receive the hearty support of those interested in furthering our industrial development.

AS TO NICKEL.

The New York Commercial Advertiser, referring to the recent Order-in-Council of the Ontario Government regarding nickel lands, says:—

We are startled, even in these days of trusts, to hear that plans are under way to put the Canadian nickel mines into the hands of the British Government. England and France would then practically control the output of nickel, and the navies of all other countries would be left destitute of that metal, so important in the construction of their armor. Next we are reassured to hear that, if worst came to worst, there are nickel mines in this country that could be developed so as to keep our navies from going forth naked in o the world; and furthermore, calm reflection convinces us that, with England controlling half the nickel in the world and France the other half, all countries friendly to England would be supplied by England, and all countries hostile to England by France. That would be the state of affairs as long as peace lasted. In time of war, of course, England would simply go and capture the mines in New Caledonia.

Our New York contemporary should understand that Premier Ross is more interested in building up a nickel refining industry in Ontario than he is in the armoring of American war ships. It passes the comprehension of Canadians why the Conservative Dominion Government never imposed an export duty on nickel ores and matte, at least equivalent to the duty imposed upon refined nickel imported into other countries. The matter was brought to their attention time and again, but for years and years we have seen the country drained of the raw material, while at the same time hostile tariffs have prevented the export of a pound of the finished product.

As far as Ontario goes, Mr. Ross is the man for the occasion. Of course, he cannot interfere with the export of nickel ores taken from lands over which he has no control, but he is acting strictly within his rights in requiring that ores taken from Crown Lands shall be refined in Canada, and in doing this he is carrying out what has always been the policy of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and of Canadian manufacturers generally.

The Dominion Government has already taken power to impose an export duty on nickel ores and matte, and it is to be hoped no time will be lost in imposing that duty.

A POLICY OF PROGRESS.

A few days ago at a large meeting held at Whitby, Ont, Hon. John Dryden, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, speaking of the work done and to be done under his administration, gave some figures illustrative of the progress that has been made in agriculture since he became Minister. In 1891, he said, we produced in cheese 82,000,000 pounds; in 1897, six years thereafter, 137,000,000 pounds. In 1893 we had only 174 creameries; in 1897 we had 214 producing 8,000,000 pounds, and this advance had not been at the expense of other branches of industry, as was shown by our increased exports of grains and hog products He also traced the growth of the Farmers' Institutes, the distribution of the reports of the Live Stock Association, and the development of the Fat Stock Show. In 1891 there were seventy-one entries, against 800 in 1893. He announced that at the show in London this year an important innovation will be made in the system of judging. The judges will be required to announce the reasons