

CANADIAN NICKEL AND THE WAR.

FOR some time past the *Toronto World*, a leading Conservative paper, has been waging a vigorous campaign for the prohibition of the export of nickel ore, matte or oxide, from Canada to the United States. The *World* bases its demand on the well-known fact that Canada, in the famous mines in the Sudbury district, possesses the chief nickel deposits in the world; that no nickel is made in Canada; that the whole output of the Canadian nickel mines goes to the United States for treatment, and it asserts with a confidence that indicates some knowledge of the subject, that Canadian nickel is finding its way to Germany and has been used and is being used in the production of nickel-steel for the building of German warships. Therefore the *World* argues that a stop should be put at once to the export of Canadian nickel, and it calls upon the Dominion Government to take action at once.

The output of the Canadian nickel mines is controlled by an American company which ships the crude nickel to its smelters in New Jersey. This is the basis of the charge made by the *World*. Following is a sample of the editorial comment of the *Toronto paper*;

"We exercise no control over the American smelter's product; and as a matter of fact the British fleet is now facing the German fleet, most of the nickel in the armor of which comes from Ontario mines, with or without the knowledge of our government at Toronto and the government at Ottawa. How long are we going to allow this state of things to last? Is it not criminally unpatriotic?"

On another occasion the *World* said:

"Don't let us jeopardize the Empire, endanger the lives of our own sons and fellow subjects — nearly ten thousand British sailors have already gone to the bottom, victims of German ships, built with Canadian nickel — by allowing Germany to get a metal which she cannot get any other place than from us... To talk about our patriotism and then help the enemy to get our nickel by letting it go freely into a neutral country, is national, is Imperial suicide. It is treachery to our fellow subjects, and nothing else. And we repeat it, treachery!"

Statement by Government.

Several other Canadian newspapers joined the *World* in its campaign and the criticism drew from the government at Ottawa a statement on December 26, which declared that the government had taken steps to be assured that no Canadian nickel was finding its way to Germany through the United States company which has sole control of Canadian nickel. It was also stated that steps have been taken by the government of Canada have the entire approval and sanction of the British government, who express themselves as entirely satisfied with the precautions that have been taken. It was also explained that the nickel exported from Canada to the United States is used in a large number of industries in that country, and that therefore prohibition of the export, except for the most urgent reasons, would be undesirable.

On the same day that the Dominion government issued its statement, a similar explanation came from the management of the International Nickel Company, which has its headquarters in New York.

Far from accepting the explanations of the Government and the Company, the *Toronto World* returned to the attack in the following terms;

"The *World* is glad to know that the Ottawa government has this subject under consideration as above set out. But the *World* wishes to say that Germany has been getting all her nickel from Canada and as far as we can gather is still getting it; and the *World* wishes also to say that it has no confidence in anything coming from the New York office of the nickel trust.

"But the statement of the government ignores the most serious thing in allowing the situation to continue; in other words, that it is the duty of the Canadian Government to immediately and absolutely, prohibit the export of nickel out of our country in any shape or form unless to a refinery in Great Britain and only then until such time as a refining plant be established in Canada. **We have been allowing a company that has no interest in upholding Canada and the cause of the Empire, to take nickel matte out of our country and give it to the enemies of the Empire; and furthermore, that this company, which does that, is under constant temptation of enormous prices and profits from the German government in order to have the supply continued.**

"What the government at Ottawa must do, is to declare a policy against any continuation of conditions that have prevailed in the past; and at the same time the Canadian public ought to be told who have been the main shareholders and customers of this International Nickel Company in the United States ever since its organization. **If it can be shown as the *World* knows it can be shown, that there were big German shareholders in this Company and that German interests were the big buyers of the product, then it is high time that all these facts should be presented to the Canadian people:**

"As to the Norway supply, it is a good deal like the New Caledonia bugaboo, and we take little stock in the statement."

COPYING THE LEMIEUX ACT.

ACCORDING to press dispatches from Wheeling, West Virginia, on December 15, legislation modelled after the Canadian Industrial Disputes Act will be introduced at the approaching session of the legislature of that state. West Virginia has been forced to seek a way of preventing labor disputes which have caused heavy losses in that state in recent years, and particularly within the past year or two. It is a tribute to the soundness and success of the Canadian legislation adopted by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that it is being taken as a pattern by West Virginia.