

not anticipated that any difficulty will arise in obtaining sufficient for the requirement of H. M. Service through the ordinary channels, and while desirous of thanking the Ontario Government for its friendly forethought and consideration, their Lordships consider that it will be preferable to leave the development of these mines to private enterprises, though my Lords have no doubt that the Government of Ontario will for some long period to come retain under its control some of the land in which these nickel ore deposits are to be found."

Exeunt omnes! The curtain falls upon this act. We may not applaud either plot, author, or actor, but surely he who runs may read and observe where the real statesmanship was exercised.

For a space no further move was made. Then the Ontario Government began to receive proposals from private persons to undertake the smelting and refining of nickel ore in Ontario, but none of the proposals satisfied the Government, and nothing came of them.

Then on November 23rd, 1899, the Director of the Bureau of Mines called the attention of the Commissioner of Crown Lands to the proposal that had been made to the British Admiralty in 1891 and advising the re-opening of negotiations. As a result the following Order-in-Council was approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in 1899:

"Upon consideration of the memorandum of the Director of the Bureau of Mines dated 23rd November, 1899, and upon the recommendation of the Honourable the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the Committee of Council submit for the approval of your Honour the following suggestions respecting copper and nickel mining in the Province of Ontario, namely:

"1. That in the interest of our relations with the Empire it is desirable at an early opportunity to renew the negotiations opened with the British Government in April, 1891, which have for their object the concession of an interest in nickel ores of the ungranted lands of the Crown for Imperial and national uses, on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon.

"2. That having in view a large scope for the employment of capital and labour

in the copper-nickel mines and works, it is desirable to secure the establishment in the Province of refining plants in accordance with the scheme of the charter of the Canadian Copper Company, or otherwise; and, if necessary to the success of this object, to ask that effect be given to the provisions of the Act (Chap. 67 of 60-61 Victoria) for imposing export duties on nickel and copper, subject to such modifications in favour of the United Kingdom and the other colonies of the British Empire as may appear to be in the common interest.

"3. That for safeguarding the public interests in ungranted lands of the Crown it is advisable that all grants of mining in the lands hereafter issued shall provide in the patent or lease that the copper and nickel ores upon or in such lands shall be treated and refined in the Province so as to produce fine nickel and copper of marketable quality, and that for any violation or evasion of this proviso by the grantee, his heirs, or assigns, such lands shall revert to and be vested in her Majesty, her successors and assigns for the public uses of the Province, freed and discharged of any interest or claim of any other person or persons whatsoever. . . ."

This order-in-council was without practical effect. No arrangement was made between the Governments. None of them appears to have taken any action, and the Ontario Government alone manifested a serious interest in the matter.

Again, in 1904, certain nickel properties were offered to the Admiralty, and at the same time it was pointed out to them that the nickel had become a practical monopoly and there remained but few desirable nickel properties in the market. In a letter of the 6th of May, 1904, the Admiralty once again set out their views upon the matter, which were given in a letter from the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies:

"My Lords took the view that the great extent of the nickel-bearing area in Canada precluded any possibility of difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies, and that the development of the mines should therefore be left to private enterprises. . . . Arrangements have recently been made through the armour-plate manufacturers for the constant maintenance in this country of large stocks of nickel for a number of years ahead, in the probability that,