

The interest of Canadians in the nickel industry has been greatly increased by the war and the problem of controlling the export of nickel so that none may reach the enemy. The war has directed attention to the disadvantages arising from the fact that the nickel-copper matte from the furnaces of the Sudbury district is not refined in Canada.

The Mond company ships matte from its smelter at Coniston to Wales. The Canadian Copper Co. ships matte from its smelter at Copper Cliff to New Jersey. Neither company refines nickel in Canada.

The Mond is a British company and the product of its refinery is, of course, absolutely in British hands. The International Nickel Co. is, however, not under British control and it has been therefore necessary for our Government to make special arrangements to prevent Canadian nickel from reaching the enemy. The nickel company has, under this arrangement, been doing work of great importance to the Allied cause. Canadians have, however, learned their lesson, and are endeavoring to provide against any possible recurrence of present conditions.

The desirability of refining metals in our own country has been impressed on Canadians during the war, and the demand for control of export of nickel has been especially strong. Interest in the nickel question has created a demand for information concerning the Sudbury nickel-copper industry. We have therefore devoted a considerable portion of this number of the "Journal" to the nickel industry.

NICKEL CONTRACTS

According to the Toronto World the British Government has cancelled its big contract with the International company, and is only bound to them now for the present year. The World says:—"The British Government has guaranteed the bonds of the British-American Nickel Co. to the extent of \$2,000,000 and has made a contract with them to use up to half a million tons of nickel within ten years, and at the present price this, we take it, would amount to \$5,000,000 a year. All this money that goes to the miners and refining process will be spent in Canada, and apparently profits will come to Canadians that happen to own shares in this company, whereas now most of the profits of and most of the work in International Nickel go to shareholders and workmen of that company in the United States, where most of the shares are held for Germany. If the British Government are so satisfied with the arrangement with the International Nickel Co., why this change? It will take our contemporaries some time to explain this and they will have further things to explain later on."

If the "World" had any idea of the extent of the known ore reserves of the British-American Nickel Co.

and of the company's ability to produce nickel it would not so readily believe that the British Government has contracted with the British-American company for 500,000 tons of nickel. Having swallowed the statement the "World" goes on to make comments which are equally foolish.

At present the nickel companies operating in Ontario are producing at the rate of about 40,000 tons nickel per year. The "World" professes to believe that the British-American company has made a contract for half a million tons to be used by the British Government within ten years.

Half a million tons of nickel is just about twice the total production to date of Ontario's nickel mines. And yet the "World" would have its readers believe that the British Government has contracted for that amount with a company which is not yet producing.

HALF-WAY MEASURES

Commenting on our objection to the suggestion that the present refinery of the International Nickel company be scrapped, the "Toronto World" says:—

"The 'Canadian Mining Journal' starts out with the statement that International Nickel has a big, expensive plant at Constable Hook, New Jersey, which it should be permitted to utilize for a term of years in refining nickel at least in sufficient quantities to supply the demands of the United States market. So long as it adheres to that position it can never advocate anything but half-way measures in dealing with nickel export and the nickel question generally. We appreciate what the 'Journal' has to say of the 'World' and we are glad to have it journey with us a little way. We would like to see it come out for a resolute national policy. It would be cheaper to buy that refinery at Constable Hook and scrap it than to have it stand in the way of our immediately adopting a truly national policy in regard to nickel."

Is the national policy in regard to nickel thus advocated worthy of support? Are we to begin by spending millions to compensate owners of plants which we do not intend to use and which may be as good as we could build here? Is such waste warranted? We think not.

We agree with the "World" in believing that changes in our methods of dealing with mine products are to be desired. We are ever ready to support reasonable suggestions which may lead to the utilization of our mineral resources in such a way that finished articles rather than raw materials may be exported. Suggestions which involve the needless expenditure of large sums of money and the disruption of industry are, however, deemed scarcely worthy of consideration. Waste of public funds or private investments should be avoided. We believe that a change should be made so that Canada may absolutely con-