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EXPORT OF NICKEL MATTE

According to writers in the daily press, nickel won from ores mined in Ontario is being obtained by the enemy. If this is true the traffic should be immediately stopped.

It is well known that nickel is an important constituent of armor plate. An alloy containing about two per cent. nickel, known as nickel-steel, has especially suitable properties for use in war. All nations are aware of this, and a large portion of the nickel output of the world is used in the manufacture of war materials.

Germany, in preparing for war, has been one of the largest buyers of nickel. We may safely assume that Germany has a large stock on hand. And we may just as safely assume that Germany would like to buy more.

The chief seller of nickel is the International Nickel Company of New Jersey. This company controls the Canadian Copper Company, which is the largest producer of nickel ore in the Sudbury district, Ontario, and controls also the Societe Miniere Caledonienne, which owns nickel deposits in the French penal colony of New Caledonia, 900 miles east of Australia.

Obviously Germany will buy nickel if possible from the International Nickel Company. So far as nickel from New Caledonia deposits is concerned, Canada has no right to interfere. But with the sale to the enemy of nickel obtained from Sudbury ores it is not only Canada's right, but her duty to interfere. Steps should be taken, and are being taken, to determine whether Canadian nickel is reaching the enemy. If such is the case the Canadian Government will have to devise a scheme for prohibiting such business. There is as yet no proof of the statements made in the daily press; but until the statements are disproved Canadians will be uneasy.

The Toronto Star advocates the prohibition of export of nickel ore outside the British Empire. As Canada does not at present export nickel ore the Star's effort suffers somewhat from lack of accuracy in statements. Matte, not ore is probably intended in the following paragraphs from the Star:

"It is a pity there ever was such a trade with Germany, and it ought now to be cut off for good and all, during the war and afterwards. Germany ought not to get an ounce of Canadian nickel. The bulk of the nickel exported is for the protection of warships and the covering of shells, and Canada must not in the smallest degree furnish the materials of war for Germany, directly or indirectly.

"The surest way to bring about the desired result is to forbid the export of the ore to any place outside the British Empire. If the nickel were refined in Canada it