

completed in this country by the corporation of which Mr. Monell is the moving spirit. It is reported that an understanding has been reached between the Dominion Government and the International Nickel Company whereby a nickel refinery will be established on the Atlantic seaboard. This departure is understood to be dictated entirely by economic conditions, the destination of the output of the Ontario nickel mines never having been the cause of any anxiety to the Government of either Canada or Great Britain. Since the war began, there has been close co-operation between the International Nickel Corporation and the British War Office and largely through the increased activity of the Canadian nickel mines the requirements of Great Britain and her allies have been satisfied. The new arrangement, however, will mean an important addition to the list of industries which will be opened somewhere near the time that peace is declared."

Other newspapers have published similar statements concerning the significance of Mr. Monell's visit to Ottawa, all accepting as plausible the report that a refinery will be established in Canada; but differing widely in opinion as to why and when it will be established and what part of the nickel matte produced will be refined here.

According to the Boston News Bureau of January 19 the International Nickel Company will erect a refinery in Canada—"when the time comes." We are naturally interested in knowing what is meant by this significant phrase. Does it mean that the company expects the Canadian Government to insist on refining being done here? Apparently it does. Does it mean that all the refining will have to be done here? On this point the reports vary, one answers the question affirmatively and the other negatively.

The Toronto World, which invited our hostile criticism by demanding a year ago an embargo on the export of nickel matte to the United States, seems to interpret the news item as an indication of the Government's dissatisfaction with the present arrangements for preventing nickel from reaching the enemy. It may be true that some Canadian nickel is reaching Germany; but if so a great many people whose business it is to know what is going on are being grossly deceived. We have had no good reason yet to conclude that such is the case. It is obvious that Germany has been making every attempt to procure nickel and she may have succeeded in some cases. The British Admiralty is, however, in a position to secure necessary information in this connection and the Government has reported that present arrangements are satisfactory.

It is possible that since the Government assurances were given that control of export has been lost and that nickel is now reaching the enemy. It may be that the Government has obtained reliable information of such traffic and has determined to insist on all the refining being done here. We have no information to this effect, however, and consider it quite unlikely.

While we disagree with the World concerning this phase of the nickel question we agree with its contention that steps should be taken to have the refining done in Canada. It is obviously to the advantage of Canada and the mining industry that we should send out finished rather than raw materials. We would rather export nickel than nickel matte; further, we would like to export nickel steel instead of nickel for the manufacture elsewhere of nickel steel and we would prefer to export nickel-plated articles instead of nickel for plating.

We agree also with the World that it is regrettable that in a time like the present we are dependent on a foreign plant for the production of refined nickel. We take issue on the question of how this condition should be remedied. The World seems unwilling to believe that the International Nickel Company is not exploiting Canada in the interests of Germany. We prefer to believe that the company is in business primarily to make money, and that the directors consider the present arrangements satisfactory on account of business reasons and not from a desire to deprive Canada of an industry or to further the interests of Germany.

We have therefore expressed in these columns satisfaction with the present arrangements as being in the best interests of Canada and of the company. By placing an embargo on nickel matte we would be depriving the Empire and a friendly country of needed supplies. By failing to take precautions satisfactory to the British Admiralty for preventing nickel from reaching our enemy, the International Nickel Company would put itself in a position which would force Canada to prohibit the export of nickel matte to the United States. It is obvious that the company is not anxious to bring about such a condition of affairs.

We have also expressed on former occasions a desire to see nickel refineries established here if such a change can be made without unfairly treating the company which is chiefly responsible for the existence of Canada's nickel industry. It is not unlikely that the company would be willing to make some concessions in view of the large profits that are being made and of the feeling in Canada with regard to the question, and we imagine that the company could establish a refinery in Canada and still be able to pay dividends. We consider, however, that there should be more disposition to meet the company half way and we have no sympathy with the demand that the company be forced to abandon its New Jersey plants.

In the Globe's comment, quoted above, it is hinted that a nickel refinery will be established about the time that peace is declared. The authority for that statement is not given by the Globe. Is there any connection between these remarks and the statement in the Boston News Bureau that a nickel refinery will be established in Canada "when the time comes?"

We fail to see why the end of the war should be chosen as the time for adding to Canada's industries. To our mind the time is now. The demand for nickel and copper was never so great as to-day. The output of the