

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Mr. WILSON.—I would like to get some protection from the Dominion government. You see all the nickel matte is shipped to New Jersey and refined there. That hardly seems to me to be right. They produce about 38,000,000 pounds of nickel and copper, which is all sent to the United States or Great Britain for refinement, and that means a loss of \$1,000,000 a year in wages to labour in Canada.

The CHAIRMAN.—I should think so.

Mr. WILSON.—It seems to me Canada might reap more benefit from being the owner of one of the only two nickel deposits in the world, for the consumption is bound to increase, and New Caledonia cannot compete with Ontario.

An hon. MEMBER.—Is there any royalty on it?

Mr. WILSON.—No.

The CHAIRMAN.—What is the quantity there?

Mr. WILSON.—Millions of tons.

An hon. MEMBER.—Is the area over which it is distributed very large?

Mr. WILSON.—Yes, about seventy miles by thirty miles.

An hon. MEMBER.—They simply smelt it and get it into a matte and send it outside to be refined?

Mr. WILSON.—Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN.—What percentage of iron? What chances are there to utilize it as a structural material, taking the iron and nickel there together.

Mr. WILSON.—Of course, the present nickel steel is made by dissolving metallic nickel in a bath of steel in the open hearth furnace, but it seems it is feasible now, since the ore contains 48 per cent of iron, to roast the ore and make ferro-nickel direct from the ore and in that way you utilize the iron contents of the ore.

An hon. MEMBER.—They do not extract the iron from the nickel in its present state in this country—they just add to it to make it of commercial use?

Mr. WILSON.—All the nickel steel is produced outside of Canada, and all they produce at Sudbury is copper nickel matte.

An hon. MEMBER.—The iron is refined out of the matte in the New Jersey smelter?

Mr. WILSON.—The iron is fluxed off in the smelting and converting processes.

Mr. MACDONALD.—Who are the officials of the Canadian Copper Company.

Mr. WILSON.—Mr. Monell is the president of the International Nickel Company and Mr. Turner is president of the Canadian Copper Company.

An hon. MEMBER.—Might you not get some of these gentlemen down here, Mr. Chairman, and find what they have to say?

Mr. WILSON.—I do not think you will get much information from Mr. Turner.

Mr. MACDONALD.—We can have a whack at him anyway.

The CHAIRMAN.—He is a very pleasant gentleman, but I do not know about his willingness to come?

Mr. MACDONALD.—The committee can order him down.

The CHAIRMAN.—All right we can try that. What are the various articles of commerce into which the use of nickel might enter?

Mr. WILSON.—As I was saying, for practically everything for which ordinary steel is used now. To get the same strength of ordinary steel you would only have to use two-thirds of the weight in nickel steel. I hope it is going to be used for the Quebec bridge, and I hope in that case the government will insist on the nickel steel being manufactured in this country.

An hon. MEMBER.—You say there is an inexhaustible supply of nickel there, and its development is stayed by reason of the fact that the company now operating there controls the markets of the world?

Mr. WILSON.—Yes.

An hon. MEMBER.—And they do not develop the remaining ore and prevent it from being developed in order to further their own interests as against the interests of the country?