

and referred to several authorities whose experiments had demonstrated the great value of nickel in alloy with other metals. Then Mr. Hardy, in the same report, made this far-seeing suggestion:

"In view, therefore, of the important national uses to which nickel is being applied by foreign Governments, and of the consequent demand for mining locations here, it has occurred to the undersigned that an arrangement might be made under which the Government of the United Kingdom should acquire a substantial, possibly a controlling, interest in the nickel deposits of this Province."

He urged that the proposition be made during the session then being held of the Legislative Assembly, because,

"It will be remembered that pending contemplated changes of the law all locations within the region of the nickel ranges were, five months ago, withdrawn from sale by Order-in-Council, but, unless the Government should be authorized to say that negotiations are pending with the object mentioned, this territory may have to be again thrown open to applications and claims by prospectors and others."

The Honourable Oliver Mowat, the Attorney-General of the Province, took the matter in hand immediately, and on April 6th, 1891, he sent the following letter direct to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Knutsford:

"I beg to enclose to you copy of a report of the Ontario Commissioner of Crown Lands, and of an Order-in-Council adopting the same with reference to our nickel lands. These have been forwarded to the Secretary of State for Canada, but, as time is a great object, I venture to send you these copies direct. Our Legislature is in session just now, and the session is expected to terminate before the end of this month. If it were practicable to give us by cable before the 25th instant at latest some intimation as to whether the proposition suggested and explained in the Commissioner's report is thought worthy of consideration by the Imperial Government, it would enable us before the Legislature is prorogued to provide for further action."

"I send also in a separate cover a memorandum prepared by Mr. Archibald Blue, secretary of a commission appointed

last year by this Government to inquire into and report on the mineral resources of the Province. Certain documents referred to in the memorandum are enclosed therewith."

"Though our communication and accompanying papers have, in usual course, been sent through his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Secretary of State of Canada for transmission by his Excellency the Governor-General, this method may not have been necessary in a matter, which, so far as we are concerned, is commercial and not political, and the mining lands to which reference is made being the exclusive property of the Province, as to which the Dominion Government has nothing whatever to do."

"As I have already explained, time is a great object in the matter."

No doubt the Attorney-General wrote direct to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in order to avoid the delays of the rigidly formal state communication. All the formalities, however, were observed in Downing Street. Lord Knutsford advised the Governor-General of Canada that he had sent the proposal to the Lords' Commissioners of the Admiralty and that he had the honour to transmit, for communication to the Provincial Government a copy of the letter which had been received from their Lordships' department. Here is the text of the letter, which was signed by the Under-Secretary of State:

"I am commanded by my Lords' Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th May, transmitting copy of a despatch with its enclosures from the G.-G. of Canada, respecting the nickel deposits in Ontario, and in further reference to my letter of the 4th May, C. P."

"I am to acquaint you for the information of the S. of S. for the Colonies that my Lords have most carefully considered the representation conveyed to them, and, while they much appreciate the courtesy and consideration of the Ontario Government in inviting their attention to the vast resources of the nickel mines of Sudbury, they have arrived at the conclusion that it would be inexpedient to apply to Parliament for powers to acquire the controlling interest suggested in these nickel mines."

"As far as can be ascertained, and judging from the great extent of the area in Canada over which nickel is found, it is