

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MERTON COMPANY.

Hartley Dewart lays great stress on the foreign holdings in the firm of Henry R. Merton & Company. Before the war this concern was one of the tentacles that Germany had reached forth to control the trade of the world and strengthen her military ascendancy. When the war commenced, the British Government, which had utilized this firm for the purchase of metals, made enquiries. According to the record before the war 55 per cent. of the shares were owned by British subjects which represents a controlling interest. 30 per cent. appears to have been held in Germany and 15 per cent. by neutrals. Without going tediously into the matter, the result was that the enemy holding of shares in the Merton Company was entirely extinguished, not in a perfunctory manner, but to the satisfaction of the London Times, the British Board of Trade and the High Court of Justice.

The following cable received by the Prime Minister of Canada, from the Rt. Hon. Bonar Law, Colonial Secretary in the British Government, on November 27th, 1916, deals with this matter:—

"It is a fact that His Majesty's Government has approved from the first of the arrangements made by your Government for refined nickel to American plants. It is recognized by His Majesty's Government that it would be impossible, and indeed manifestly injurious in the conduct of the war, to prohibit the export of Canadian nickel matte, and they have concurred in the method of supervision now being adopted which seems to them to be the best practical method."

"Mertons have eliminated the enemy holding in the company with the approval of the board of trade. His Majesty's Government therefore utilized the services of this Company, which have assisted in securing government control of metals. Such control, owing to pre-war conditions, could hardly have been secured without their help."

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL.

Great stress has been laid by Mr. Dewart on the disclosures in the Providence "Journal." The Providence "Journal" performed a highly important and highly appreciated service during the war in the interest of Great Britain. What Hartley Dewart claims the Providence "Journal" found about nickel and what the Providence "Journal" **did** find is shown in the following letter and John R. Rathom's reply, which is reproduced on another page: