

INTERNATIONAL NICKEL PROFITS

The International Nickel Company which, with the Mond Nickel Company controls the supply of nickel from Sudbury, Ontario, it is reported have made profits of \$16,000,000 during the year just past. Sudbury is the only available Canadian, American or British source of supply and, indeed, it supplies over 90 per cent. of what the world uses. The Ontario legislature in accordance with the recommendation of a commission appointed to investigate the nickel situation has recently raised the rate of taxation on mining profits, between \$10,000 and \$50,000,000 from three to five per cent. with an increasing rate up to seven per cent. on companies with profits less than \$15,000,000. Heretofore the International Nickel paid only \$40,000 in taxes to the Ontario government; now it will pay \$1,000,000 and only have left to itself about \$15,000,000. Can you imagine such severity and hardship being inflicted on a corporation? This company has been showing profits of from \$7,000,000 to \$15,000,000 during the last three years. There is good evidence to show it has been selling nickel to enemy countries since the war began, and on this great resource of the people of all Canada, of which it possesses an absolute monopoly, it is only asked to pay seven per cent. on profits, a paltry \$1,000,000. The commission mentioned in its report opposed government ownership, pointing out that it would cost \$100,000,000 to expropriate the property. That is nearly twenty times what was paid for this property and only about three times the profits of the International Nickel Company alone, since 1914. Surely it is time such a great and essential resource as this should be conserved for the people who own it, and not given virtually a free gift to foreigners, some of them enemies in this war.

INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES

The recent announcement by Canadian railways of a general increase in freight rates by rail and water, amounting to twenty per cent. adds another heavy burden on producers in every part of the four Western Provinces. The new rate only applies to shipments "rail and water," but an advance in the "all rail" route is also foreshadowed unless some means is found of stopping it. Many of the most essential commodities, such as binder twine, articles of iron, cement, salt, sugar, stable fittings, etc., most essential to production, and many of which are bought co-operatively by farmers are immediately and seriously affected. No reason is given by the railways and none can be discovered, except that American companies have done this and the traffic will bear it. Already western freight rates are 60 per cent. higher than those in Eastern Canada. The C.P.R. last year made profits of \$49,000,000, the most of which came from its Western Canadian traffic, and all Canadian railroads have been enjoying unusual prosperity. A continuance of such oppression must become unbearable and can only result in decreased production and rural depopulation. The manufacturers are objecting strongly to the recent increases on certain commodities, but except during a short period of re-adjustment, such increases are and must always be passed on to the consumer, who is also the producer. Western farmers are making the heaviest contribution to the upkeep of Canadian railways. This action ought to merely deepen the determination of the Canadian people to own these railways themselves. They must foot the bill in any case and public ownership now seems the only way of protecting public interests in transportation matters.

In order for the United States to enter the

war it was necessary first for President Wilson to present his message to Congress. A joint resolution was then brought before the Senate and debated and passed. The resolution was then forwarded to the House of Representatives where the same procedure was followed. Thus the people's representatives with all the facts before them have practically unanimously and with a full realization of the facts, declared it to be necessary for the nation to make war upon Germany. This is the method of democracy. If representatives of the German people had had a similar opportunity to decide upon war or peace there would have been no war.

That a revolution in Germany is not an impossibility and that it may take the course of an outbreak against the Prussian military clique which is leading the nation to misery, starvation and disaster, is the warning issued by that fearless German publicist, Maximilian Harden. The progress of events may yet raise up within Germany forces that will hasten the termination of the war.

Immediately after President Wilson presented his war message to Congress, he received the unquestioned support of Ex-Presidents Roosevelt and Taft. There are no longer parties in the United States on the great national issue.

It is to be hoped that this war will see the end of all autocratic governments. War will not be impossible so long as its decision rests with one dictator.

Royalty is an expensive luxury. Investigation by the new government in Russia has shown that it cost the country \$20,000,000 to maintain the Czar and his family. National thrift demanded the elimination of such an item of expense.



"UNEASY LIES THE HEAD"