

Statement by Mr. Robert M. Thompson, of New York, President of the Orford Copper Company, one of the largest refineries in the United States :

"I am a nickel refiner and have refined all the nickel that has been delivered to the Government. In my business of refining I am anxious to buy my supplies in the cheapest market. I have had all the mines this gentleman (Congressman Hermann of Nevada) referred to examined by experts. I am familiar with all these deposits in these various States to which he has referred. There is not one of these mines to-day where they can be made to pay at any reasonable duty. If they were I would be in the ownership of them. These Oregon ores are a silicate and refractory nickel. The fact is, these ores cannot be treated economically. Mr. Whorten, of Camden, N. J., is another nickel refiner, and both he and myself, and he especially, have been in anxious pursuit in America of nickel, and if such a thing could be found, Mr. Whorten would be here to advocate an increased duty as owner of that deposit."

THE CHAIRMAN—"You have examined personally these California, Nevada and Oregon deposits?"

MR. THOMPSON—"I have had them examined by experts, not personally. I have had them examined by experts, who are more competent to examine them."

"I have spent in the last year not less than \$5,000 on an expert who has been travelling over the country from place to place all the time in my anxiety to find a supply. I should be very glad if any gentleman will find it for me."

MR. HERMANN—"I will ask the gentleman whether or not it is a fact that there is considerable cost in the extraction of copper, which forms a very material part of the nickel of Canada, as against that found on the Pacific Coast, wherein there is very little trace of copper? I am so informed."

MR. THOMPSON—"The reason why the Canadian ore can be sold so cheaply is, it contains such an amount of copper ore—you can