

value of the ore at the mine goes to the Province of Ontario. When you have cast up the account of those items the balance, if any, will show the profit or loss to Canada on this natural resource. If we had a manager for our business, if we took an intelligent interest in our own national and Imperial business, someone would inquire whether that account showed a satisfactory dealing with this matter, whether this natural resource, which looked so important and valuable, could not be made to show a little more profit and some other advantages.

If inquiry were made it would be found that Canada is the source of eighty per cent. of the world's nickel, that the only other deposits of importance are in New Caledonia, a French penal settlement on a small island in the Pacific, which produces practically the whole of the remaining twenty per cent. The consumption of nickel is increasing rapidly. The introduction of a small percentage of nickel into steel gives the product qualities which greatly enhance its value, gives it a superiority for certain purposes which make it a necessity to certain users, for the warship, the gun, and the automobile.

Nickel-steel is a necessity. And our nickel deposits which permit us to operate a boarding-camp and supply house and to conduct an excellent police court, enable our foreign competitors to operate gigantic businesses and our enemies to destroy our friends, our fellow British subjects and our fellow Canadians by ships, cannon and projectiles, improved and strengthened by a judicious addition of Canadian nickel.

The nickel deposits of Canada were discovered in the middle eighties, and their extent and value had become known by 1890. Up to that time the modest demands for nickel had been supplied by the mines of New Caledonia. The demands were moderate—nickel had not yet come into its own.

In the later eighties experiments were made with steel containing a small percentage of nickel. These experiments showed that nickel-steel was stronger, tougher and less subject to erosion than carbon steel.

In 1889 the Canadian Copper Company were selling large quantities of nickel in Europe and had an offer from Krupp to take their entire output for three years. S. J. Ritchie, of the Canadian Copper Company (Canadian in little but name), communicated the condition of affairs to B. F. Tracy, Secretary of the Navy for the United States. The Secretary communicated with the Honourable William McKinley, Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means, under date of March 15th, 1890. Tests of armour plates made at Annapolis on September 18th, 1890, showed the superiority of nickel-steel plates. *The Scientific American* of September 27th, 1890, gives an account of the experiments. In the issue of October 4th of that year appears:

"The remarkably short time it took for Congress, after the final results at the recent trials at Annapolis were made known, to make the large appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the purchase of nickel to be used in the manufacture of nickel-steel plates for armouring our war vessels is something phenomenal. The very great superiority of such plates over the English compound plates, such as is used on most of the armoured vessels of the British Government, was so plainly shown at the trials as to admit of no question."

It should be kept in mind that these experiments were made a quarter of a century ago. At that time the Government of Ontario were actually anticipating the nickel situation as we see it to-day. The Attorney-General made a request for a report on "the occurrence of nickel in Ontario and on its value when alloyed with iron and steel". The Honourable Arthur S. Hardy, the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario, made a report to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, in which he dwelt on the importance of the nickel deposits in the Province