

the imposition of a ruinous export duty. Let us have nickel refining by all means, but not at the expense and to the detriment of our nickel mining and smelting industries as they at present exist.

Canada does not enjoy a monopoly of the nickel resources of the world and an export duty on nickel would place New Caledonia and other nickel producing countries in a position to supplant our present position in the markets of the world.

Mr. Joseph Wharton of Philadelphia, an owner of nickel mines at Sudbury, and one of the principal refiners of this metal, says:—(see Monograph Mineral Industry of the United States, 1896), "It is conceivable that the intimations of an export duty upon nickel ore and matte which from time to time appear in the Canadian journals may some day be realized, and cause serious search to be made in this country for the deposits of nickel ore which doubtless exist and of which the now dormant Gap mine is an instance. Such an export duty would, no doubt, direct attention afresh to the great deposits of nickeliferous pyrrhotite in Norway and Sweden which have been for several years neglected. Barring such a contingency the Sudbury region seems destined to remain for a long time one of the two chief sources of nickel for the world, the only rival to meet it upon equal terms being the island of New Caledonia with its unlimited resources of nickel silicate, only a part of which are controlled by the French Company "Le Nickel."

The Federated Canadian Mining Institute, the representative organization of the mine owners, mining engineers and mine managers of the Dominion, at its annual meeting in March, 1897, unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the agitation to place an export duty on nickel, or any other Canadian mineral, as detrimental to the best interests and expansion of mining development in the country.

Again we repeat there must be no export duty on nickel. Further, we are confident, such a duty is not seriously contemplated by the present Administration.

### A Pernicious Fallacy.

Elsewhere in this issue we have pleasure in reproducing a paper "On the Gold Bearing Veins of Bag Bay," near Lake of the Woods, by Mr. Peter MacKellar, F.G.S., of Fort William, presented to the February meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. In this paper Mr. MacKellar is to be congratulated on having presented, in a very interesting way, the facts characterizing the occurrence of gold in veins intersecting the granitic rocks of the Archaean in the Bag Bay district. The views he expresses as to the mode of formation of the veins seem to be the proper conclusion to be arrived at from the facts adduced. The same cannot be said, however, as to his general conclusion that there is a gradual increase in the gold content of the veins as greater depth is attained. This pernicious old fallacy, which dies so hard, is here revived again, and stated on an inference from the recorded facts. This inference does not seem to be warranted. We think that the conclusion which the ordinary reader will draw from the paper is that here, as in all other districts, the gold content will be found to vary as different depths are reached, sometimes increasing and sometimes diminishing. When we consider that the greatest depth reached in the district would bear to the thickness of the earth's crust about the proportion which half the height of one letter on this page of the REVIEW bears to the full height of the page, it seems absurd to say that the crushing will be noticeably more effective at such depths than it is at the surface.

## NO NICKEL EXPORT DUTY

Indisputable Facts why such a Duty Should Not be Imposed—  
S. J. Ritchie's Malevolent Agitation to Throttle the Canadian Copper Co.—A Strong Statement by Major Leckie.

The month has been notable for a revival of the discussion on the proposed export duty on our nickel ores and mattes shipped to the United States, the *Montreal Star*, *Toronto Globe* and other papers having devoted considerable space to the subject. Our own views upon this question are very well known. We are decidedly opposed to any such pernicious legislation and we have quoted in these columns many of the most eminent mining and metallurgical authorities to show the danger that threatens our nickel mining and smelting enterprises if the malevolent representations of Mr. S. J. Ritchie, backed up by a few ignorant and unscrupulous company mongers, should result in an export duty being placed on this mineral. One of the latest pronouncements on the question is a letter to the *Globe* from the pen of Major R. G. Leckie, a past president of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia and of the Federated Canadian Mining Institute, and a gentleman who for the past thirty years has been very prominently identified with the gold, copper, iron and coal industries of the Dominion. Major Leckie, as every one knows, is a strong Imperialist, he possesses a thoroughly intimate knowledge of the nickel question, and the facts which he recites in support of his contention that an export duty would throttle our mining industry—a contention with which we most heartily concur—are well worthy of the consideration of everyone having the welfare of our mineral industries at heart. Major Leckie says:—

The Minister of Crown Lands, in referring to the discussion of our nickel industry, described it correctly as "principally uninformed."

Permit me to put before you as concisely as I can the facts relating to the production and distribution of nickel. All the writers who advocate an export duty on nickel ore and matte assume that Canada controls the nickel markets of the world. This assumption is entirely gratuitous, but having been reiterated for years by interested parties to avenge a personal grudge, the Canadian public has come to accept this misleading statement as a fact. The truth lies in the opposite direction. The latest available statistics are to be found in *The Mineral Industry*, edited by Mr. Richard P. Rothwell, an eminent engineer and statistician. On page 496 the output of the world for 1896, the last year of complete returns, was 4,624 tons. Of this, New Caledonia produced 2,972 tons and Canada 1,541 tons. In the following year Canada produced 1,813 tons, but the shipments of New Caledonia are not given. The editor remarks: "The total output was perhaps as little as 4,000 metric tons owing to the large stocks of metal that were carried forward from 1896."

### PRODUCTION OF NICKEL TODAY.

At present writing, in 1898, the world's production of nickel is considerably in excess of the consumption, and there must be a comparatively large accumulation of stocks. From this the inference is, of course, that unless there should be some sudden and unforeseen new demand for the metal the production must be restricted, page 497. The Société Le Nickel is doing nothing at all, except making shipments from accumulated stocks, and is said to have at least 100,000 metric tons of 6 to 7 per cent. ore on its wharves. The owners of the Katepehai mine have 20,000 tons of 8 per cent. ore, which was offered last year at 11s. per unit delivered in any American port, with a minimum tenor of 8 per cent. Ni guaranteed. The Si Reis mine was shipping