

SIX PATENTS IN NICKEL BELT TO CAN. COPPER CO. GRANTED FEB. 7

Hartley Dewart Makes Exposure in Legislature Speech.

FERGUSON HAS ANSWER

Says Private Party Earned Claims and Sold Out to Corporation.

WAR TRAGEDY AT HOME

Member Charges Canadians Are Killed by Resource of Native Country.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

TORONTO, Feb. 21.—The feature of Hartley Dewart's notable speech in the Legislature this afternoon on the nickel question was his reply to the statement made by the Hon. G. H. Ferguson at Alliston on January 4, when Mr. Ferguson declared that since the present Government came into power the companies had not obtained one acre of nickel lands.

The member for Toronto stated that on February 7 he visited the registry office at Sudbury and found that six patents dated December 1916 regarding mining land in the very heart of the nickel belt were given by the department, over which Mr. Ferguson presided, to the Canadian Copper Company. This represents 23,000 acres at three dollars an acre. The Liberal loudly applauded Mr. Dewart when he placed this alongside Hon. Mr. Ferguson's statement of January 4.

Just Toll Not Taken.

Mr. Dewart said: "Today in our Ontario politics there is no more out-landish question than the nickel question. Since 1907—during the time of the development of nickel in this province, during the time the International Nickel Company has come to active operation, during the time its operations have extended throughout the world—the Conservative Government has been in power and the people of the province and the Dominion have a right to complain that there has been no effective safeguard placed upon control of the nickel that is mined in this province and that only do we complain that there has been no control of the important business of refining in this province but we complain that the Government has not required a just toll for provincial taxation."

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He also called attention to the confidence placed in an unwise ally with foreign interests which the Government had not controlled the nickel activities they are not even planning to control.

Mr. Dewart referred to the Government's attitude on temperance in June, 1914, at the time of the provincial election. He said that the Conservative government had been in power and the people of the province and the Dominion have a right to complain that there has been no effective safeguard placed upon control of the nickel that is mined in this province and that only do we complain that there has been no control of the important business of refining in this province but we complain that the Government has not required a just toll for provincial taxation."

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