

The World's Nickel Industry and Canada's Share in it

Reasons Why Canada Must Refine Her Own Nickel.

By NICKELAS CANUCK

The World has done well to educate the public on the nickel industry. As a question in Canadian economics it is of first importance; and since nickel is essential in modern navies and armaments, it is an imperial question also.

To make this a little plainer to the reader, let us present more facts about the uses of nickel and Canada's relation to the world's output of this remarkable metal.

As the Chinese were the first to use paper, gunpowder and other manufactures, so were they the first to make use of nickel.

An alloy of nickel, copper and zinc, called pack-fong, has been used in China from time immemorial; but modern discoveries and the advance of chemistry and other sciences have increased the uses of nickel wonderfully in the last few years, and these uses will multiply yet more. Two of its qualities will ensure this development: First, when alloyed with most metals it increases their strength, toughness and durability; and second, it is rust-proof, and to a great extent acid-proof. Its first-named qualities have rendered possible the flying machine, the automobile, as well as the modern battleship, the submarine and modern armaments. Its second quality has rendered possible the manufacture of many chemicals and industrial products that could not before be made, or only at great cost. It will be seen at once that a metal which will resist water and steam, and to a great extent acids, will greatly extend the scope of hundreds of special industries; and since an alloy of only 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 per cent of nickel in steel will give it such increased strength that it has already displaced ordinary steel in structural work, it becomes clear that for the purposes of modern industry no metal is so essential as nickel. And yet, so far, the chief actual use of the bulk of the world's nickel output is in making engines for human slaughter. In actual ratio from four-fifths to nine-tenths of the world's output goes into armor plate and ships' plates and guns and other equipment for war on sea and land.

What are the sources of nickel? Roughly speaking, three-fourths of the world's supply is mined in Canada; and it is a remarkable fact, concerning another mineral product used also very largely in the arts of war and peace, that about the same proportion of the world's supply of asbestos is mined in Canada, and in neither case has advantage been taken of our situation to develop to their logical conclusion the industries dependent upon the raw material.

The chief nickel-bearing area of Canada is in the Sudbury district of Ontario, and lies in the form of a great basin, 35 miles long by 15 miles wide, in the shape of a boat, with its bow pointing to the northeast. In view of the actual contour of the surface outcrop and the financial results to the mining companies and the armor plate firms who exploit them, it might be compared to a huge water melon, the nickeliferous rocks of the area representing the rind of the melon. On one side alone, in this region 35,000,000 tons of ore have been proved. The cobalt-silver ores of the Cobalt region also contain an average of 1.47 per cent of nickel, and the nickel is not paid for in the output of these ores the amount of refined metal from Cobalt amounts to 600 tons a year.

The next and only large source of nickel is the French penal colony of New Caledonia, 800 miles from the coast of Australia. Here the ores are found in narrow bands, not more than half-a-mile long and mixed with granite rock and red clay. It occurs mostly in mountain heights and the work of stripping off the clay and getting the ore down to the coast and finally the long ocean voyages are obstacles to the competition of these mines.

Limited deposits of nickel are found in Europe, Prussia and Saxony are the chief sources in Germany, and it is to be recalled that once alloy is known as German silver. No figures are allowed to be given of the German output and we only know that the deposits are not large, nor the output increasing. Finland, Sweden and Norway produce nickel. The Norwegian is the chief of these, but the ore only yields 1 1/2 to 2 per cent of metal and Norway's contribution to the world's output has become negligible since the recent development of the Canadian and New Caledonia mines. There was a recent discovery in the Greek island of Lokris, near Athens, but not much is known of its extent. Small quantities have been found in Australia and not long ago deposits have been discovered in Cape Colony, which may prove important. In the United States limited deposits have at various times been found in Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Missouri and Oregon, but none of these are promising, owing to the low grade of the ores. Small quantities have been found in Cuba, the only further source in America.

The Sudbury ores vary in richness, ranging from 2 per cent. to 15 per cent. They will probably average 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 per cent. of nickel, besides copper and other minerals, with which they are mixed. These mixtures were for years a difficulty in the reduction of the ores, but the difficulties have been overcome, and in one case the combination is an advantage. The production of a remarkable amount of German silver, named after Monell, the president of the International Nickel Co. The Monell alloy is of a silver-white appearance, takes a brilliant polish, can be rolled or cast like copper, bronze or steel, is stronger than either steel or bronze, yet as flexible as copper when rolled in sheets, and so ductile that wire can be drawn out to one-fourth of an inch, so that it is as pliable as silk thread. This is an alloy of nickel and copper and it is singular that the ore of one region of Sudbury gives the proportions for this alloy, so that it can be melted direct, without separate treatment. It is worthy of note that the Creighton Mine of Sudbury, which is the largest single mine in the world, has the high average of 4.63 per cent. of nickel and 1.65 per cent. of copper in its ores. Regarding the Sudbury deposits, Prof. A. P. Coleman, who has examined these regions thoroughly, says that in the southern range alone, the nickel output is over three million wide and with an average dip of 30 degrees, each mile of the sheet would contain 4,000,000 tons of rock in which the workable metal might be 2,500,000 tons per mile.

From these facts the reader can make the deduction that the world depends on Canada for the supply of nickel, taking into account all its known sources. But to get another measure of Canada's predominance in this material, let us take the recent development of the industry. A German metallurgical authority estimated that in 1906 the world's production of refined nickel was 14,300 metric tons (a metric ton is 2,204 lbs.), of which the mines of Ontario produced 10,776 metric tons. Now in 1912 the world's estimated production of the refined metal was 26,500 metric tons, of which Ontario supplied 22,421 tons. The significance of this is that Ontario has in this period contributed to the world's increase, 11,645 metric tons, while all other countries put together have only contributed 555 tons to the world's increase. A further fact is that while the output of Ontario has increased, as indicated, the exports of New Caledonia—the next largest source—have in recent years remained stationary.

Why the navies of the world depend on Canada will appear from a few elementary considerations. To get the same strength of armor with ordinary steel a warship would require plates at least ten times as thick as with nickel steel. This would add so seriously to the weight of the ship and would so reduce (let) her coal capacity, (2nd) net tonnage, (3rd) speed, that no approach could be attained to the present efficiency of ships in any one of these directions, because no other known metal and no alloy yet introduced can give the required results. The same effects that apply to battleships apply with added force to submarines, to destroyers, to light cruisers, as well as to the internal equipment of each of these types of war craft. On the other hand, the increased strength imparted to guns and to the mechanical devices for handling them, as well as to their projectiles, torpedoes, etc., by the introduction of nickel alloys counts as strongly on the offensive as on the defensive side, so that it may truly be said that in the essential elements in modern war equipment. Now, the statistics given elsewhere, show that the great bulk of the world's production of nickel—let us say, four-fifths—goes into armaments, and of this total production more than three-fourths comes from Canada. Hence it follows from these facts that it is in the power of Canada to stop the increase in the world's armaments by her control of the nickel output. If Russia, by legislative edict, has stopped the drinking of vodka through a vast empire and made a drinking nation sober, why cannot the Canadian Government by a flat check the armament industry?

This can only be effectually done by controlling the refining processes within our own borders. No promise or undertaking of a company operating outside of Canada can be relied on to restrict the export, for the reason that the offer of high prices will always enable a belligerent country to get it thru a neutral, by indirect and covert means. From the statistics published the other day it appears that the United States exports of refined nickel cut-off from Germany and Italy under the arrangement with the International Nickel Company since the war have been more than counterbalanced by the unusual increase in the imports from "other countries." In the ten months to Oct. 31, these "other countries" imported from the United States nearly 11,000,000 lbs., whereas the normal imports of Germany the year before were 2,527,000 lbs., and of Germany and Italy combined, 2,550,000 lbs. "Those who have studied history know how ineffectual were Napoleon's decrees and embargoes on trade. It is only because Canada has a virtual monopoly of the amount of nickel needed in armaments that we could make this effective, and then only by, first, limiting the output, and second, designating its destination.

Practically no nickel is yet refined in Canada, but it is shipped in a partially roasted form, known as matte (from the French matte, signifying dull or dim), and of this matte over 43,000,000 lbs. goes annually to the States and about 5,000,000 lbs. to Great Britain. The exports to the States are sent to the refining works of the International Nickel Co. in New Jersey, which company controls the Canadian Copper Co., one of the chief nickel mining companies of Sudbury. The British exports are handled chiefly by the Mond Nickel Co. which, after producing their matte in the Sudbury district, ship it to Clydach, Wales, for refining. These works have been greatly enlarged. Each of these corporations refines by its own process, worked out after years of difficulties, overcome by patient experimenting. A third process, known as the Hybnite—after a member of the Norwegian firm of Hybnite, Berthsen and Henriksen, who opened mines at Eyde and refines at Kristiansand, Norway—is now being exploited in Canada by a company known as the Canadian Nickel Corporation, with a nominal capital of thirty million dollars. With this process it is claimed that nickel can be produced 99 per cent. pure. There are about twenty mines that are, or have been, operated in the Sudbury region of which nine are of importance, and of which the companies operating them have an aggregate capital of about a hundred million dollars.

As to profits, the Mond Nickel Co. in its prospectus announcing its extensions, stated that in the production of metal worth \$11.56 there would be a profit of \$4.96, after deducting all operating expenses. But the valuation on which this estimate

SEEKS TO LIMIT CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Alderman Cameron Will Move That Law Be Applied For.

WATER SUPPLY IS GOOD

Only Once Last Year Was Infection Found by Analysts.

On learning that there was no law making it a crime for a contractor to make a contribution to the campaign fund of any candidate for municipal honors, Ald. R. H. Cameron said yesterday that he would make a motion that a law of this kind be applied for at the next session of the legislature. The whole thing arose out of the fact that James Simpson was handed \$200, which he turned over to Crown Attorney Carley.

No Stand Yet. In his campaign speeches Mayor-elect Church stated that he was not in favor of the budget for the following year being made up in December. Contrary to this is the opinion of the same opinion, as he thinks it would be hard to estimate the civic revenue so far in advance, and it would mean the committing of the new council by the one preceding it. The controller has not taken any definite stand, however, as he desires to get the opinions of others before doing so.

Water Bad Once. Only once during the last twelve months was the water of Toronto infected, according to a statement made by Dr. Hastings yesterday. The last analysis made shows the water to be good.

Mayor Hooken does not think that a fair comparison in hydro rates can be made between Toronto and other cities, as the overhead charges are much greater here. The cost factor is the vital item in establishing rates. The mayor is in favor of adopting the Hamilton idea of a minimum monthly bill of 50 cents.

May Ask Re-count. The many mistakes in the Yeomans-Hiltz recount has stirred up James Simpson, and it is stated that he will probably ask for a re-count of the board of control ballots. Mr. Simpson was only 142 votes behind Controller-elect Thompson, and he thinks that with so many gaffes in 2900 votes, a re-counting of over 46,000 votes should make quite a difference.

The Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission took out a permit yesterday for the erection of a six-story building on University avenue. The building is to cost \$75,000.

Live Question New. The smell from the abattoirs in Ward Seven is a live question these days. Dr. Hastings says that it is certain that, long before summer, the smells will be completely stopped. He thinks that the abattoirs will decide the question themselves by installing machinery to treat their sewage, and that much has already been done to prevent the nuisance. As a matter of fact the abattoirs are under federal jurisdiction and the city has as much reason to complain of conditions as those directly affected by the odors.

Owing to the death of each M. R. Graham, of London, Mayor-elect Church becomes president of the Union of Canadian Municipalities. He was last year elected vice-president of that body and according to the constitution becomes president.

Oppose Annexations. In the near future Ald. Cameron will put a motion to the council asking that the council go on record as being opposed to any annexations during the year. Mr. Cameron says that ways opposed the widespread annexation that has come before the council of late years.

In spite of the winter weather the work of harbor improvement goes ahead, and the plant is being kept in good shape for an early start in the spring. Some of the pile-driving will be done during the winter.

City Would Not Pay. There is a little difference of opinion as to whether there is to be the usual luncheon after the inaugural meeting of the city council Monday. The city would not pay for it, but any definite information in this regard, except that if there is a luncheon it will not be paid for out of the city's funds.

Only a few of the members have called at the city clerk's office yet to take the oath of office, and these are the members of last year's council. That just happened to drop in. The official notification has not been sent out yet.

Ald. John Cowan made his first visit to the hall today since being elected. He doesn't intend to make a big splash with notices of motion at the first meeting, but when the year's business gets under way he will be on the job.

Keeping At It. Ald. Ryding doesn't intend to let the abattoir question that is bothering his ward these days get cold. He says that he is going to try and have the mayor-elect live up to his campaign promises to have the smells put under promptly.

Present indications are that few if any notices of motion will be brought up at the inaugural meeting of the city council. Most of the members feel that it is just as well to get the

was based 30 cents a pound; whereas THE NEW YORK ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL of that date quoted the market price of nickel at 45 to 50 cents per lb. on contract sales and 55 cents on small lots of 100 to 500 lbs. Then the dividends of the International Nickel Co. have increased from 3.3 per cent. in 1903 to an average of about 10 per cent. in the last three years. In 1911 it was 26.3 on its preferred and common stock combined. The actual cash distributed in dividends was upwards of four million dollars a year in both 1912 and 1913, besides a surplus of nearly a million dollars. The Mond Nickel Co. did lose money in its years of experimenting, but in recent years its dividends have been from 48 to 55 per cent. on preferred shares and 16 per cent. on ordinary shares.

These amazing profits and share values have been created by the rapidly increasing uses of nickel, and especially because of the growth of naval armaments, and it is perfectly obvious that the refiners of the nickel are its close business relations with the armor plate and armament firms, who are their largest customers. Apart from any question of economics, this is an over-mastering reason why such an industry should be nationalized. Self-government is a nullity when a private corporation or group of corporations can defeat the national will by such means.

The past development of the nickel refining industry in the U. S. by Canadian ores was a natural one; but its further development to the disadvantage of Canada and the whole empire presents a new problem, the only solution of which is the complete reduction of all Canadian nickel in Canadian refineries. There is not a single objection which the refiners can raise that cannot be dismissed as trivial when the grave national interests involved are put in the balance. The cost of the transfer of works sufficient to begin on an adequate scale would be covered by the profits of a single year. When Great Britain found herself at war the government did not allow itself to be balked by the theories of those who claimed that government control of the British railways was impractical, both technically and financially, but the government simply stepped in and took control, and are today doing the impossible. So it must be with the nickel industry; and if the nickel corporations will not willingly yield to the principle that Canadian resources must be subject to the control of the Canadian people, then the government must expropriate the mines. By doing so the profits of the new developments will be found to yield a handsome return on the investment, and all to the advantage of the Canadian people and the safety of the empire.

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GLOVES Wool lined or silk lined, tan or gray shades. Regular price \$2.00 and \$2.25 1.65	PYJAMAS Soft flannel or fine soisette, all colors. Regular price \$2.50, for ... 1.85		

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Another reflection on our apathy is that Canada, which produces nearly all the metal for nickel coinage, has no nickel coins in its own monetary system. The United States, France, Switzerland, Brazil, Turkey and other countries use nickel coins extensively. The U. S. is now preparing 3-cent, 1-cent and 1/2-cent coins of nickel, and before the war Turkey was preparing to issue 200,000,000 nickel coins at a value of \$1,820,000. A Canadian nickel coinage should be issued and made from nickel refined in Canada.

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NEW COMMISSION TO SOLVE PROBLEM

Examine Permanent Causes of Unemployment for Means of Stopping It.

There was a full attendance of members at the first meeting of the Ontario Unemployment Commission yesterday afternoon. W. P. Gundy was elected treasurer at the outset and G. E. Jackson, secretary. Sir John Willison made the following statement: "This commission was appointed to examine into the permanent causes of recurring unemployment in Ontario and to recommend measures to mitigate or abolish the evil. I understand that the commission is to devote itself wholly to the question of unemployment and not to questions of rates of wages. In any investigation that we may undertake we will not feel that we have any right to expose the business of private firms to the public."

The whole object will be to determine the volume of unemployment, to consider its causes and if possible to suggest such measures as will ensure the certainty of a decent living for every man or woman who is willing to work. If new sources of permanent employment can be discovered the pressure upon the labor market will be relieved, wages will be steadied and the general position of labor improved. "Probably the commission will have to consider existing relief methods and the bearing of immigration upon the problem of the cities. The volume of immigration should be adjusted to the ability of the country to absorb any influx of population. Ultimately it may be necessary to have a national and

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, Jan. 7, 6:40 p.m.—Reuter's Petrograd correspondent transmits a message from Tiflis stating that a detachment of Armenian volunteers had arrived there from America. The volunteers were given an enthusiastic reception. The Armenian volunteers evidently are to serve with the Russian army in the campaign against Turkey.

RECRUITING AT ST. THOMAS. ST. THOMAS, Ont., Jan. 7.—Lieut. Col. W. J. Green has received orders from the militia department at Ottawa to open a recruiting office in St. Thomas for the enlistment of 500 men for the 23rd battalion of the third Canadian contingent.

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even an imperial organization of immigration with a system of imperial and national labor exchanges, co-operating to bring to the Dominion only such people as can improve their position here and of such character as the country requires. "When we come to treat immigration as an imperial problem we will bring to Canada only such people as are best fitted for the Dominion and as will strengthen the Empire by the productive results of their labour in this country."

ARMENIAN VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT FOR RUSSIA

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THE "TOP NOTCH" SCOTCH "KING GEORGE IV." WHISKY.